



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Neighborhood Rejoices at St. Paul's Salvation

By Kathy Dalle-Molle

While standing in front of St. Paul's Church the morning of Nov. 19, Sister Maureen O'Brien suddenly noticed a butterfly floating in the middle of Church Street.

"Oh, oh, did you just see that butterfly? I bet you didn't know that a butterfly is the symbol of resurrection!" exclaimed O'Brien.

For O'Brien and the rest of St. Paul's clergy, parishioners, and neighbors, the butterfly perfectly captured the spirit of the day. The San Francisco Catholic Archdiocese had just reversed an earlier decision to close the entire St. Paul's Parish, including shutting down the 87-year-old Gothic Revival cathedral at Church and Valley streets.

After a week of protest, Archbishop John Quinn overturned a Nov. 14 recommendation from the church's in-house planning commission and agreed to allow the 113-year-old parish to remain open.

In his announcement Nov. 19, Quinn also said St. Paul's parishioners would be given the opportunity to raise the estimated \$5 million necessary to bring the cathedral building up to earthquake safety codes.

"We are very grateful to Archbishop Quinn. He really listened to us," said O'Brien, principal of St. Paul's High School and one of the more outspoken parish supporters. "We're all very happy we get to keep the church. From here is where we start."

A Sister Act in Real Life

In addition to St. Paul's, the Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning Commission had originally proposed closing 11 other city parishes, citing the need to consolidate dwindling congregations, reduce huge repair costs, and revitalize the cash-poor, land-rich San Francisco Archdiocese.

But St. Paul's Parish was by far the largest church on the hit list. So when the closures were announced Nov. 14, parishioners and neighbors jammed the phone lines at St. Paul's rectory and at the archdiocese offices, demanding that the church be spared.

"The phone was ringing off the hook, all calls from people offering to help in whatever way they could," said Father Mario Farana, St. Paul's pastor.

The parish was also the recipient of widespread media coverage, including a write-up in the *New York Times*. Most of the accounts noted that St. Paul's plight



Students at St. Paul's parochial schools gathered on the steps of the church Nov. 19, jubilant at the news that it had won a reprieve. PHOTO BY NAJIB JOE HAKIM

bore an uncanny resemblance to that of the church in the movie *Sister Act*, which was filmed on location at St. Paul's in October 1991.

In the film, community members, nuns, and parishioners were inspired by Sister Mary Clarence, a character played by comedic actress Whoopi Goldberg, to clean up the church's neighborhood and reinvigorate the parish.

In the case of St. Paul's, Farana believes that archdiocese officials were moved by the outpouring of affection they witnessed during a four-hour evening meeting at the church Nov. 16.

Thanks to word of mouth and volunteers delivering flyers door to door, more than 1,500 people packed St. Paul's pews to testify before the church hierarchy.

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Tom Collins' Murder Shocks Hoffman Fire Station

By Denise Minor

Until its tragic end a month and a half ago, Tom Collins' life read like the screenplay from an exciting adventure movie.

As a firefighter based at Noe Valley's Station 24 for the past 10 years, Collins had more than once saved people's lives.

He was also the dashing part-owner of a successful winery, located south of Healdsburg in Sonoma County. He raced boats in Singapore and France, bicycled through the Sierras, and helicoptered into remote areas of Washington state to ski untouched snowscapes.

And at 37, he was engaged to marry Karen Francis, a Tennessee businesswoman with a master's degree from Harvard University. The couple planned to settle in Healdsburg and start a family.

But Tom Collins' promising future as a husband and father would never be realized. On the afternoon of Oct. 14, while he was shaving at his home next to the winery, he was suddenly confronted by his father, who was carrying a pistol.

Thomas Collins Sr., 72, shot and killed his son Tom, then turned the gun on himself.

"My father got this notion in his head that we had cheated him in some way,"

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Here Today, Gone Tomorrow

As is our want, or wont, we won't be here next month. The *Voice* is "on break" for the holidays, and the next issue will not appear until Feb. 2, 1994. However, we're sure we've generated enough reading material to last you for a while. The December/January paper is so hefty, in fact, that we've had to move a few of our regular features around. Instead of the usual page 2, the "Letters" are strewn across pp. 6 and 7, and the "Class Ads" are on 41-43.

May we also suggest that you recycle this issue with your friends. Or perhaps use it to wrap packages—now there's an idea!

See you on the flip side. Peace and love. □

—Sally and Jack, your humble publishers

Kids' Holiday Books to Read From Cover To Cover

By Michele Lynn

'Tis the season for celebrating Christmas and Hanukkah, as well as Kwanzaa, the African-American festival honoring one's community and ancestors (see story, page 21).

So the *Voice* took the opportunity to ask our resident children's book expert, Nicky Salan, owner of Cover to Cover bookstore on 24th Street, for her recommendations on books to enrich the holidays.

In November, Salan was elected president of the Northern California Children's Booksellers Association. She prides herself on running a "really good neighborhood bookstore with a citywide reputation for its children's book selection."

Salan's love for children's literature is apparent as she delightedly shows off the cubbyhole room at the back of the shop, filled to overflowing with books for kids of all ages. The shelves not only display hundreds of titles on every imaginable topic, but feature more than 30 books (including counting and board books) on

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A variety of choices are waiting at Cover to Cover for young and older readers, such as (from left) Julia Franzen, Eden Rock, and Terri Rock. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARO.

To find and give the perfect gift to someone makes the hassle seem worthwhile in retrospection. The choice can be easy when you like the recipient; the search, when you don't, can make madness incipient. No one likes scrooges, you'd hate to become one; sometimes all you need's a considered suggestion.

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But first of all, please, before you (ad)venture out, take a hard searching look at what these days are about.

Mark Ezarik, 1993

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from Cover to Cover's staff:
Nicky, Barbara, Tracy, Mark, Susan E.,
Susan T., Olga, Kerry, and Myra.

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Tom Collins' Romantic Life Meets Tragic End

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said Mike Collins, 43, who shared ownership of Limerick Lane Vineyards and Winery with his brother Tom. "He left very explicit notes on himself that he planned to kill us both."

The elder Collins had arrived with a 38-caliber handgun, 50 rounds of ammunition, and cans of gasoline, which, according to a note found on his body, he planned to use to burn down the winery after doing away with his sons.

Mike Collins said his father had always been an angry man, but when his sons bought him out of the ranch that they had once jointly owned, and then later turned it into a successful winery, the father focused most of that anger on Tom and Mike.

"The only unfairness was in my father's mind," said Mike Collins. "We paid him exactly what he asked for the ranch."

"My brother had always been extremely generous to him and to my mother," he continued. "He paid for two expensive trips for them to Europe. He had bought them four different cars. In fact, Tom had bought the car my father drove up here in to kill us."

Limerick Lane Winery had become so lucrative that Tom Collins could have resigned from firefighting, his brother said. But Tom would never have done so, he added, because he received a great deal of satisfaction from the job.

"Tom was also a paramedic, and since there aren't a lot of fires in Noe Valley, he responded more to 911 calls attending to the elderly and AIDS patients than to fires," said Collins. "The medical aspect of the job became a significant part of his life."

Being stationed in Noe Valley was a happy coincidence for Tom Collins because his family is from here. Maternal grandparents Michael and Ellen Herlihy were Irish immigrants who settled in a house on Diamond Street near Jersey Street in 1916. Michael Herlihy was a foreman for the San Francisco Water Department for years.

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Later, they moved to 961 Church St. "That was where we lived until Tom was born, and then we moved out to the avenues," said Mike Collins.

Tom Collins graduated from Lincoln High School in 1974. The state Forestry Department employed him for some time, and it was following that experience that he decided he wanted to become a firefighter.

"It was an odd coincidence that Tom's first day as a fireman was the day Harvey Milk was killed," said Mike. (City Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone were gunned down by former firefighter Dan White at City Hall on Nov. 27, 1978.)

At Station 24 at the corner of Hoffman

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Tom Collins

Continued from Previous Page

and Alvarado streets, the crew of men who served on Collins' regular shift was having a hard time getting used to his absence last month.

"It was very weird at first. You'd expect him to come in the door at the start of the day," said firefighter Dave Sager. "His name was still everywhere around the station."

For a week after the murder, Collins' fellow workers draped the station with black bunting and placed a wreath on the fire truck on which they rode.

Sager, along with Gary Snyder and Lieutenant Joel Moeller, worked the same shift with Collins for the past year and a half, and periodically worked alongside him for nine years before that. The three remembered the event four years ago for which Collins received an award for heroism.

"The floor had collapsed in a building in North Beach where they were fighting a fire," said Moeller. "Two firemen went halfway down through the floor. Tom and another guy, Mike Creedon, pulled them out."

Collins was also the fire station's handyman. "Tom was an exceptional mechanic. He put in our dishwasher here," said Moeller. "Whenever there was a small problem with something, he would fix it instead of calling the Bureau of Equipment Repairs."

The three co-workers knew that there were tensions in the Collins family, but they never guessed the extent.

"I knew he and his family didn't get along. But I had no idea his father would do something like that," said Moeller.

But Mike Collins always suspected his father was capable of an extreme act of violence.

"What happened to my brother—I thought might happen to me," said Mike. "My father had threatened to kill us, but Tom never believed he would do it."



Last month (from left) John Ronan, Alan Kazarian, and Terry Smith draped the Hoffman Avenue Fire Station with black bunting and placed a wreath on Engine 24, in memorial tribute to fellow firefighter Tom Collins. PHOTO BY BIVELY THARP

From childhood, Mike Collins had noted a simmering anger within his father. "He always had a chip on his shoulder about something," he said. "And my father was very authoritarian. I've never seen anyone so unbending."

The anger worsened when the boys' mother, Sheila Collins, died in 1985. Tom Collins Sr. had been very emotionally dependent upon his wife.

"My mother was an extremely charming person. Everyone who met her liked her," said Mike. "As soon as Mom died, my father became completely unreasonable."

Sheila and Tom Collins met during World War II, when Tom was stationed in San Francisco from New York. They married, lived in Noe Valley, then moved to the Sunset District. In the mid-1970s, Sheila was diagnosed as terminally ill with leukemia, said her son.

Not long after that, the Collins family bought the Healdsburg ranch together, and the parents decided to live there in hopes that the country atmosphere would be better for Sheila's health.

When she died, the elder Collins wanted

to sell the property and move back to San Francisco. The two sons protested.

"We reminded him of the years of hard work we had put into the ranch. We offered to buy his part and pay for his rent in San Francisco," said Mike. "But he wouldn't listen."

Finally, five years ago, the father agreed to sell his third of the ranch to his sons for the sum of \$200,000 cash.

"But when he saw our success, and how highly regarded Limerick Lane wines had become, he became jealous of his own kids," said Mike.

The winery received a gold medal for its 1992 zinfandel and a bronze medal at the 1993 Sonoma County Harvest Festival. Prior to this year, the Collins brothers had harvested and bottled their grapes at another winery. But in September, they finished constructing their own facilities and installing the equipment necessary for bottling.

"We had just finished the fermentation of the wine for 1993, and were ready to put it in the barrels when Tom was killed," said Mike.

On the day of the murder, Mike was

upstairs in the winery when he saw his father's car pull up. "I had the front door closed. Normally it's open," he said. "If it had been, he would have come in and shot me first."

Mike went down and locked the door. "Every once in a while my father would show up, make a scene, and then leave," said Mike. "I thought, if he doesn't see me, he'll leave."

Instead, he went to Tom's house, which was separated from the winery by a swimming pool.

"The next thing I heard was screaming like I'd never heard from a human being before," said Mike. There also were noises, but because of the winery's insulated walls, Mike was not sure whether what he had heard were gunshots. "I had no idea my father was carrying a gun."

After hearing the screams, Mike opened the front door to look out. "It was almost dark. From where I stood I had a clear view of the windows to my brother's bedroom. I saw the fire from two shots through the window."

The shots Mike Collins saw were those of the elder Collins committing suicide, but he thought they were the shots killing his brother.

"I thought he [his father] was going to come over, shoot the lock off the winery door, and come in to kill me," said Mike. For an hour, he hid in the darkness of Limerick Lane and listened carefully.

Meanwhile, a neighbor had come by, gone into the house, and discovered the two bodies. The friend assumed that Mike Collins was dead in the winery and ran to call the sheriff.

Mike Collins soon sneaked out and ran to a neighboring ranch.

"It's beyond anything I've ever heard of," said Mike, still upset a month after the tragedy. "It's one thing to lose your brother to a disease or accident... but to have your own father kill him."

Mike and a third brother, Eddie Collins, 30, plan to continue running the winery. "We won't give up because of this," said Mike. "I want people to know that." □

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Spirited Support Saves St. Paul's

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Parishioners, clergy, students, and local residents spoke passionately about why St. Paul's should remain open, and at one point during the meeting, the church organist gave a rousing rendition of *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

"In the history of the Catholic Church in San Francisco, I don't think we've ever had that many people in attendance for an event of this nature," said Farana. "We really felt the presence of the Holy Spirit that night. It was a wonderful event. I've never experienced anything like it in my 22 years as a priest."

Their Prayers Were Answered

On Nov. 18, while Archbishop Quinn was deciding the fate of St. Paul's, parishioners converged once again at the church for a two-hour prayer session. That day large pink signs could be found in the windows of several Noe Valley stores, urging the community to "Come pray with us at St. Paul's while Archbishop Quinn votes."

After news reached the rectory that the church had been saved (around 11 a.m. on Nov. 19), the church bells began to peal. A crowd of close to 300 people—including the sisters from Mother Teresa's order, who reside in St. Paul's convent buildings—congregated on the steps of the cathedral for a celebration rally.

Drivers honked their horns, neighbors and merchants hugged and kissed, and cheerleaders from St. Paul's High School, waving their green and white pompons in the air, led the crowd in the chant "We've got spirit, yes we do. We've got spirit, how 'bout you?"

Soon after, what was probably one of the loudest recitations ever of the "Hail Mary" prayer could be heard throughout

the neighborhood. A beaming Sister Maureen O'Brien was scurrying among the crowd, ringing a gold school bell. At one point during the jubilation, an over-exuberant male parishioner ran to O'Brien, embraced her, lifted her in the air, and twirled her around.

Former Star Bakery employee Clare Tamony, 71, who was baptized at St. Paul's, was among the celebrants. "I cried buckets when I heard they might close the church," she said. "Where could I go if they closed St. Paul's? I'd have to take the streetcar to another church because none are within walking distance like St. Paul's. And taking the streetcar isn't easy for someone my age."

In front of Hall Realty, Valley Street resident and St. Paul's parishioner Anna Siria Clerkin also observed the rally with tears in her eyes. Earlier in the week, when she learned she would have to find another parish to hold her Aug. 13, 1994, wedding, she was devastated.

"I grew up five houses from this church," Clerkin said. "I went to grammar school and high school here, and both my fiance and I wrote letters to the archbishop asking him to save the church."

"I met my fiance at St. Paul's Christmas Eve mass in 1991, so it was very important for us to get married there. I am just so happy that the church has been saved."

Fundraising Comes Next

Most people in Noe Valley have a similar story to tell about how St. Paul's has touched their lives—from the thousands of families whose members attended the parish from cradle to grave, to the 83 men who attended St. Paul's and went on to become priests, to the more than 120 female parishioners who have become nuns.

As Sister O'Brien said in a speech she

a boy who is having a hard time getting along with his sister. Salan says families experiencing sibling rivalry (which probably describes most families) will especially treasure the surprise ending. "This is a book I would give to everybody. It's a real family whoop-de-doo present."

Another is the classic *The Night Before Christmas*, by Clement Moore and illustrated by Anita Lobel, which Salan describes as "an old tale retold by a wonderful illustrator."

In another standout, John Burningham's *Horvey Slumfenburger's Christmas Present*, Santa returns to the North Pole after delivering all his presents, but discovers that he forgot to deliver a gift to Harvey Slumfenburger. Salan says the book is sure to delight children 4 through 8, since it details Santa's adventures on various conveyances, including horse, balloon, sleigh, and bicycle, in his frantic attempt to deliver Harvey's surprise.

Salan might have an equally hard time delivering her wares to Noe Valley, if she didn't have the help of employees Tracy Wynne and Susan Eggener, both of whom are children's book experts as well.

Wynne says her pick of the holidays is *A Dozen Silk Diapers—A Christmas Story*, written by Melissa Kajpust and illustrated by Veselina Tomova. Based on a German legend, it tells the story of a family of spiders that live in the stable where Christ is born. The spiders bring him a present of beautiful silk diapers, which they have spun.

"It's nice to find something different," says Wynne. "This is an unusual story with delightful, charming illustrations."

Wynne notes that Cover to Cover's holiday selection represents just a small part of the children's book inventory. She, Salan, and Eggener are ready and willing to point out other titles that make great presents—for the holidays or for any time of year. The staff has even typed up a list of children's gift suggestions, classified by age group and special interest.

For a copy of the list or to check out those spiders' diapers, drop by the shop at 3910 24th St. Hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and Sundays 10 to 6. □



Father Mario Farana led the celebration at St. Paul's on Nov. 19, after receiving word that the historical edifice would not be forced to close. PHOTO BY NAJIB JOE HAKIM.

gave to the Archdiocesan Planning Commission, "St. Paul's two spires tower over all else on the [Noe Valley] landscape, reminding all of the importance of God. The street at the bottom of its stairs is not called Church Street by accident."

While Sunday Mass attendance in San Francisco has dropped from 123,000 in 1961 to 47,000 today, 1,200 people—an impressive number for any Catholic church—attend services during a typical weekend at St. Paul's, generously donating more than \$5,000 to the church each week.

Nevertheless, the St. Paul's community knows the journey to raise the millions of dollars needed to repair the cathedral will be a long one. Determining an accurate cost for retrofitting the cathedral and developing a fundraising plan will be on the minds of all parishioners in the weeks and months ahead. In addition, there is talk of petitioning the city to make the church building an historic landmark.

"We never intended to burden the archdiocese with loans for us to repair St. Paul's," said Father Farana. "We always planned to do it on our own, with consultation from the archdiocese."

The good news about the repairs, says Farana, is that their cost may be substantially lower than the archdiocese's current estimate of \$5 million.

According to O'Brien, one engineering firm which has completed more than 1,000 similar projects in California has estimated that the actual cost of the work may be as low as 25 percent of the original estimates.

In any case, a city ordinance stipulates that the church building can be used for a reduced amount of time—12 hours a week—in its current state for nine more years. The convent that houses Mother

Teresa's missionaries can be used for 12 more years.

Were High Property Values a Factor?

To many parishioners and neighborhood observers, it seemed ironic that the Archdiocesan Commission had proposed closing St. Paul's, which is an active, well-attended, financially self-sufficient parish.

Sister O'Brien wondered whether the church's motivation had something to do with a desire to sell the valuable Noe Valley real estate on which the cathedral and five other buildings sit.

"Our land seems to be a significant issue," she said. "The parish has almost 40 lots of property in Noe Valley. If St. Paul's Parish is suppressed, the property will become an asset of the archdiocese, rather than the parish."

In a statement she prepared for the commission, O'Brien said, "We know that if every building in the parish were closed and demolished, there would be a balance on hand of \$6.4 to \$8.1 million."

"Is this the right price to pay for the life of the community? Is this our value? Is there no other way to use these resources for the good of the church?"

Neighbors Lean on Church

Many of St. Paul's neighbors shared O'Brien's concerns. And a number of local shops feared for their economic viability, should the parish be abolished.

"I would really miss the warmth that St. Paul's brings to Church Street," said 70-year-old Nonie Chaplin, a Day Street resident who attended kindergarten through high school at St. Paul's.

"Noe Valley is about the only neighborhood in San Francisco that hasn't really changed that much. We're all family here. There's a good mixture of people around—Latinos, Filipinos, Irish, Italian. It's a very wholesome neighborhood, and I think the church contributes to that."

"Having the church around gives us a feeling of safety in the neighborhood," said Mary Hall, owner of Hall Realty, which has been located across the street from St. Paul's for 40 years. "People are always coming and going. It would be like a ghost town if the church closed."

"The closing of the church would definitely hurt our business," said Josh Epple, an employee of Drewes Market. "The rectory and the convent both have accounts here. We make sandwiches every day for St. Paul's. It would definitely be a loss for all the neighborhood merchants."

But for now, the future of St. Paul's appears secure. And if the drive, passion, and commitment the community put forth during one very long week in November are any indication, the church will remain a fixture in Noe Valley for some time to come. □

Holiday Books

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Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, which begins this year on the evening of Dec. 8.

If you are looking for a comprehensive guide to celebrating the eight-day event, Salan recommends *Honukkah, Oh Honukkah—A Treasury of Stories, Songs, and Games to Shore*, compiled by Wendy Wax and illustrated by John Speirs. Or try *A Family Hanukkah*, a 32-page storybook that comes with a cassette tape featuring songs and prayers.

But a special favorite is *Something from Nothing*, by Phoebe Gilman. "It's one of those wonderful holiday stories, but it's not just for Hanukkah. It's filled with messages about gift-giving, family warmth, tradition, and even recycling." The book is appropriate for children 4 and up, but adults can share and enjoy it too, Salan says.

Golden Windows and Other Stories of Jerusalem, Adele Geras' collection of short stories for ages 8 to 12, is another gem, she says. "There is nothing about Hanukkah in this book, but they are all short, poignant, and terrific stories, which have a wonderful sense of place of Jerusalem."

For a basic introduction to Kwanzaa, the seven-day festival that begins Dec. 26, Salan suggests either *Kwanzaa* or *My First Kwanzaa Book*, both written by Deborah M. Newton Chocolate. *Have a Hoppy...* by Mildred Pitts Walter, is another story of the Kwanzaa celebration, suitable for ages 8 and up.

Cover to Cover also carries *Imani's Gift at Kwanzaa*, by Denise Burden-Patmon, and Virginia Kroll's *Wood-Hoopoe Willie*, about a boy who dreams of playing the African instruments of his ancestors.

On the night before Kwanzaa, Dec. 25, Salan hopes to see *Santa Calls* under everybody's tree. "It's my favorite Christmas story this year."

Written and illustrated by William Joyce, *Santa Calls* is the fanciful tale of

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Phoenix Is a Library Booster

Editor:

The "Bargains for Book Lovers" item in the September 1993 issue described how those who make a \$50 donation to the Friends of the San Francisco Library can receive a card entitling them to a 10 percent discount at 20 bookstores around the city.

It also mentioned a few of the local booksellers who are supporting this new program. Unfortunately, however, the participation of Phoenix Books, at 3850 24th St., was omitted.

We at Phoenix, both individually and collectively, heartily support the Friends of the Library in their latest endeavor. It also may be of interest to your readers to know that our sister store, Dog Eared Books, located at 1173 Valencia St., also supports this worthy scheme.

Kate Rosenberger
Owner, Phoenix Books

Support for Street Peddler

Editor:

In response to Loren J. Bialik's article in the October issue ["Sidewalk Vendor Miffed About Being Booted from 24th Street"], I would like to donate \$10 toward Lynne Elman's peddler license.



Wouldn't it be wonderful if many of us pooled our resources and kept her in business? Her scents are wonderful, and she deserves a friendly push.

Yannick J. Ingey
San Jose Avenue

Editor's Note: The Voice contacted street vendor Lynne Elman to put her in touch with Yannick Ingey, and she sent us this reply:

Dear Noe Valley Voice,

I would like to thank everyone who has supported my efforts to sell on 24th Street. I hope to be out [on the street]

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LETTERS 29¢

before the holidays, at least a bit before Christmas.

I was touched by Yannick's willingness to reach out to me, at a time when I really needed the warmth. If anyone else would like to find out my situation or would like to get in touch with me, they can write to P.O. Box 27901-211, San Francisco, CA 94127.

Lynne Elman



Break Free of the Chain Stores

Editor:

Merchants, friends, consumers, and concerned residents of Noe Valley: Why is it that you have chosen to reside and shop in this part of the city? Could it be for the same reasons that I did?

In just a few blocks of 24th Street, we not only have the answer to most consumers' needs, but we have shops with charm and individuality, the creations of local artists, world-renowned specialty items, and neighborhood roots.

However, as revealed in the "Rumors" column of last month's *Voice*, a national franchise, Supercuts, is planning to open an outlet on 24th Street next door to my haircutting store, Hot Headz (formerly Haircutters & Co.).

Who will be the next target of the chain stores? Our bookstores, our record stores, our specialty stores? Look what has happened to our coffeehouses.

Surely we do not want our shopping street to boil down to quantity versus quality! Our community deserves more than a row of carbon-copy chain stores, based not here in San Francisco but hundreds of miles away. They take the revenues from the local small businesses and the profits out of the area.

If the current small shops are not filling the customers' needs, then I say, okay, let the big corporations come. But that is simply not the case in our neighborhood. Many 24th Street stores are changing with the times—painting, remodeling, educating their staff, and updating their inventories.

Noe Valley, like other neighborhoods in the city, must take control of its destiny. Perhaps we need a moratorium on new national franchises on 24th Street, during which time we could study the potential effects on the local economy. If we as a community do not take care of our friends and neighbors, what future do we have, as either consumers or merchants?

As for Supercuts, I ask you to express your concern by phoning the Supercuts corporate office in San Francisco at 693-4700 (or faxing a letter to 693-4944); or call the San Francisco Board of Supervisors at 554-5184.

If you want to become part of a grassroots effort to protect and preserve the neighborhood's commercial character, please call me at 821-6556 or send your comments to Hot Headz, 4027 24th St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

We must act quickly. Time is running out.

Liz Nash
Owner, Hot Headz

A Convincing Argument for Vitamin Labeling

Editor:

I am writing to report a serious incident that convinced me of the need for proper labeling and regulation of food supplements and herbal remedies.

I suffer from osteoarthritis, and last August, at the advice of my physician, I entered a local health food store in search of niacinamide. I could not locate it on the shelf, and asked the clerk to point the supplement out to me.

I was not asking for advice, but the clerk began questioning me about my condition and then proceeded to try to talk me out of buying the niacinamide, saying it would do no good. He was a forceful individual, and he handed me his business card, which had his name and title, "nutritional consultant," printed beneath the store's logo.

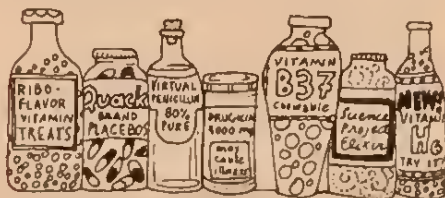
That gave me the impression that he was a nutritionist. He also said that he had had many years of experience in this field and that my doctor was wrong about prescribing niacinamide. He added that my doctor could call him if he wanted to try to convince him otherwise, but said, "Of course, most doctors wouldn't bother calling."

Next he took out a \$27 book, *Self Healing*, and flashed a few pages and charts regarding arthritis. He said that the book was my best source of information and that owning it was a "must." I said that I'd like to copy those pages to show my doctor, but he said that copying them would "undercut the sales of the store."

He insisted that I needed niacin instead of the niacinamide, and was so convincing that I ended up buying both the niacin and the book.

I went home and took a 100 mg. dose of niacin (the same amount my doctor told me to take of niacinamide), but within a short time I became dizzy, disoriented, and extremely hot, and a red rash appeared on my skin. I felt very frightened, my skin was stinging, my eyelids were twitching, and I felt as if I was going to faint. I lay down and proceeded to drink a lot of water, and after a while the symptoms began to subside.

As soon as I felt able, I returned to Real Food Company to return the niacin and the book. There I witnessed the same employee saying to another customer: "Chemotherapy kills people." This customer, a young Asian woman, was loaded down with three large containers of supplements. I shudder to think what could happen to a cancer patient who listened to this clerk's advice and stopped his or her chemotherapy treatments. I also wonder what would have happened if I had taken the niacin before getting into my car.



I feel that the health food store is responsible for condoning and legitimizing this employee's sales technique. The store subsequently fired the man, but many people in the neighborhood have reported to me that they have experienced a similar know-it-all approach from various clerks who sell vitamin supplements. In addition, there was nothing on the label of the niacin that indicated that these side effects might occur.

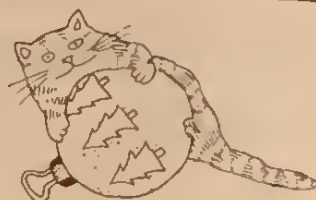
In summation, I think that supplements and herbal remedies have their place but should not be prescribed by non-professionals. I also think that all such products should be clearly labeled, and the public should be informed about potential dangers.

For approximately two weeks after the incident, I had various rashes, which were highly unusual for me and which also disrupted my sleep.

My doctor informed me that this might have been yet another result of the niacin. He said that if he had prescribed niacin (which he hadn't), he would have started me on 25 mg., one quarter the dose the clerk advised.

Arlene Dumas
Duncan Street

ILLUSTRATIONS BY KAROL BARSKE



Prayers for Pets

Editor:

Thank you for the excellent profile of Carl Friedman, of S.F. Animal Care and Control [November 1993]. It is reassuring to know that a man of compassion and love for animals is addressing the tragic problem of pet overpopulation.

At a public meeting of Animal Control and the San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals held Nov. 10 in the old State Building, cooperation between these two organizations was promised—with an emphasis on spaying and neutering rather than the euthanization of dogs and cats.

The meeting, which was presided over by Animal Welfare Commissioner Mark Hamilton, ended with a silent prayer for British film director Duncan Gibbs, who lost his life in the rescue of his cat from the Malibu fire.

Pauline Blanc
Glen Park



Tow Each His Own

Editor:

Ida Kozinets [Letters, November 1993 issue] has only herself to blame for her car being towed from Walgreen's parking lot. The store's policy is clearly posted in numerous places in the lot. What made her think it didn't apply to her?

By the way, thanks for putting out a truly excellent paper. The *Voice* contributes importantly to a feeling of neighborliness in Noe Valley. Perhaps that's why the hogging of parking places seems so selfish and out of place.

A Church Street resident

Airplane Noise Arrivals and Departures

Editor:

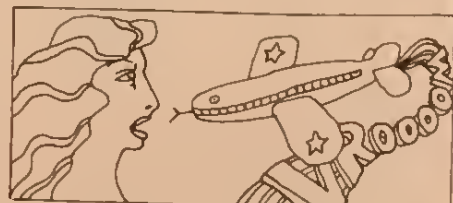
Was it coincidence that Noe Valley became a flight path for the airport at the same time that the city councils of Pacifica, Brisbane, and South San Francisco were considering airport expansion proposals?

These synchronized events occurred in September and October. But it's been quiet lately.

Could the fact that a number of Noe Valleyans complained to the Noise Abatement Center have anything to do with it? I'd like to think so.

Alexandra Hunter
Twenty-fourth Street

P.S. If your house is being buzzed, the Airport Noise Abatement complaint line is 876-2219.



Pressman Doesn't Get It

Editor:

To his credit, Steve Pressman acknowledges in his interview with the *Voice* (in your October issue) that his book on Werner Erhard is not "balanced." Unfortunately, the point is not made sufficiently clear in the book, which is a professional hatchet job.

I was on Erhard's staff as a writer in the glory days of est in the mid-1970s. There is a great book to be written about those exciting times in the dawn of California's New Age, and all the characters that Erhard brought together to create an organization and programs

Noe Library Quietly Ushers in the Computer Age

By Lisa Picarille

If you haven't dropped by the Noe Valley Library lately, then you may have missed a technological breakthrough: the paper-based card catalogs, traditionally used for looking up books, have been replaced by computers.

Over the past year and a half, the San Francisco Public Library has installed approximately 500 computers in its 26 branches, as the first phase in a high-tech push to help better serve patrons.

The Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, at 451 Jersey St., received five computer terminals for the staff in July of 1992. But the branch officially went online in April, with the addition of four computer terminals for use by the public—two each in the children's area and the adult reading room.

All of the terminals throughout the system are networked with a mother computer at the Main Library downtown.

Library patrons search for a book (or for a record, CD, video, audiotape, or musical score) by entering the title or author on the keyboard beneath the computer monitor. Then, information about the book's current status—where it is located, how many copies exist, and whether it has been checked out or reserved—automatically appears on the screen.

In the eight months since the terminals were installed, Head Librarian Roberta Greifer says she has noticed a marked increase in the number of phone inquiries the Noe Valley Branch receives.

"Because we can check the holdings at every location in the entire library system, people are now calling up to see where particular selections are located

LETTERS

that were intended to have a profound impact on people's lives and in society. Many of those people believed they could change the world. Maybe they did.

It's probably too soon for any writer to report on Erhard, his times, and his work, with the historical perspective required for a story of such scope. Pressman hasn't even come close.

Mike Orgill
Rohnert Park, Calif.

Erhard Is Old Hat and a Gnat

Editor:

The *Noe Valley Voice* is to be applauded for blowing the whistle on con men and cult leaders. But don't you think you're straining after a gnat in taking on Werner Erhard? He isn't even around anymore, forcrissakes!

If he really did con all of us for the money, I hope he took enough with him to enjoy himself in Costa Rica or Tahiti, or wherever public figures go to hang out when their reputations are ruined in the media. The guy deserves a break!

Here we are knee-deep in con men, cult leaders, and sleazy political opportunists, who are marshalling huge fortunes and commanding hordes of dedicated followers and who seriously want to take away your fundamental constitutional freedoms and mine. And you're wasting your *Voice* to deliver Steve Pressman's warning about somebody who checked out of here a long time ago for sunnier climes.

There are some really dangerous guys who are still among us doing major mischief, and it should be pretty clear to anyone who's looking that Werner Erhard is not one of them.

Bob Alman
Octavia Street



Book borrowers are becoming computer-literate at the Noe Valley Library these days, now that the old card-catalog system has been shelved.
PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD.

and asking us to have them sent to our branch," she said.

If all the copies are checked out, patrons still need to come in to the library and pay 50 cents to put a book on reserve, Greifer noted.

"But since there's a system-wide waiting list, if you reserve a book, as soon as it's returned, it goes to you. In other words, everyone's equal, whether you're at a teeny branch or at the Main."

An Aid to Research

Another advantage of the computer system over the old card-catalog method is its ability to search by key word and by subject matter. For example, patrons can enter the word *elephant* and receive a list of all the books that contain *elephant* as a key element. In addition, users can access a variety of databases, such as ones containing lists of periodicals and magazines and summaries of newspaper stories.

Greifer acknowledges that not everyone is thrilled about the innovation. "There are people who want the old cards back. And the computer does have a drawback: you need to know how to type and how to spell," Greifer said.

However, the process is "really simple," she pointed out. The computer screen prompts users through every step of their search, and offers explicit and understandable instructions. It also lets users ask for help at any stage, simply by entering the question mark symbol.

For those who remain intimidated, "we also have two volunteers, Kassie Raab

and Michael Selnorst, who come in on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons [2 to 5 p.m.] to help walk people through it," Greifer said.

She also assured patrons that there are three librarians on duty to assist you personally. The librarians know the Noe Valley collection so well, she added, that if a book's on the shelf, they can still put their hands on it faster than it can be looked up on the computer.

Library System's Global Vision

Whether or not new users are skittish, Marcia Snyder, spokesperson for the San Francisco Public Library's Community Affairs division, maintains that the computer system has become an indispensable tool for the library of tomorrow.

"The point was to bring all the records up to date and to make the library more accessible," Snyder said. "But the computers also allow us to see what parts of the collections are used or what parts are underused, and it provides us with up-to-the-minute information on the entire collection."

She added that pending approval of grants, the library would offer a much broader range of computer information in the future, including such things as the minutes of Board of Supervisors meetings, an electronic bulletin board for AIDS resources and similar support services, and public access to the Internet, a global computer network.

No matter how much the data expands, Snyder said, the screen directions on how to access the information will be continu-

ally revised and simplified, based on feedback from library patrons.

So far, the response has been positive. In the eyes of Noe Valley resident Steve Higgins, "The technological advances the library is making are definitely an enticement to get me to use the library facilities."

Meanwhile Back to Basics

Despite the new look, however, the Noe Valley Library has suffered a 60 percent decrease in funding this fiscal year, and is still trying to fill some basic needs.

To that end, Greifer has drawn up a "wish list," in hopes that Noe Valley residents will remember their neighborhood library during the holiday season.

Check donations are always welcome, but the following items would be especially appreciated: new adult books, particularly best-seller fiction and non-fiction; books on audio cassette; posters and curtains for the library's meeting room; a beanbag or rocking chair for the children's reading area; a two-drawer vertical file cabinet in which to store the Noe Valley Archives and issues of the *Noe Valley Voice*; and, last but not least, a volunteer or two to help make exhibits and displays for the children's section.

If you can make either a low- or high-tech contribution, call the Noe Valley Library at 695-5095. You're also invited to stop by the branch and give the computer a try. Hours are Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; and Thursday through Saturday, 1 to 6 p.m. □

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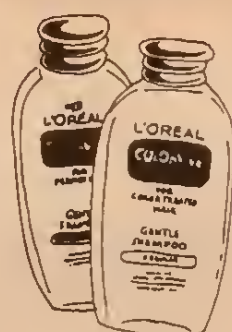
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28th Street Resident Gives Aid to AIDS Workers in Africa

By Warren Bellew

It takes a special commitment to plunge into the middle of the worldwide AIDS epidemic, but Jaklyn Brookman has done just that.

Returning this past June from Uganda in East Africa, where she conducted that country's first "gender and HIV" trainings, Brookman—a 17-year Noe Valley resident and practicing psychotherapist—stands out among the many dedicated professionals fighting the spread of this deadly disease.

In Africa for the third time since 1990, Brookman worked as an international consultant for the Genesys Project, a Washington, D.C.-based organization that conducts gender-based counseling sessions for AIDS caregivers throughout the Third World.

Although HIV infection in Ugandan women has risen dramatically over the past decade, until Brookman and her colleagues arrived on the scene, no concerted effort had been made to link sex roles to vulnerability to AIDS. Part of Brookman's job was to educate the populace as to how certain cultural norms encouraged high-risk sexual behavior.

Ugandan women typically do not question men, says Brookman. They are expected to be passive and to bear children without complaint (the average birth rate in Uganda is seven children per woman). A good Ugandan wife is an obedient wife. A good Ugandan husband demonstrates his virility by having many sexual partners. It is considered a natural act and an obligation for men to "play" sex.

Prior to her trip, Brookman met with anthropologist Vicki Lynn Ferguson, who had spent six weeks in Uganda conducting a needs assessment with health-care providers throughout the country. The two developed a training design that emphasized the need for gender sensitivity.

Says Brookman, "We wanted to create a design where influential community leaders, policymakers, religious leaders, and representatives from non-governmental organizations, including leaders from professional women's associations, would have the opportunity to reflect on the cultural norms of their society as they relate to gender-specific roles that en-



Since 1990, Jaklyn Brookman has made three trips to Africa, conducting training sessions that show how traditional sex roles are linked to the spread of AIDS. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS.

courage vulnerability to HIV disease and AIDS."

Designing such a program might have seemed a formidable task, but Brookman had considerable experience right here at home.

She received her master's degree in psychology from New College of California in 1984. However, her real journey in AIDS research began when she took a job doing HIV-lifestyle interviews with patients on Ward 86 at San Francisco General Hospital.

Brookman later became one of the first HIV antibody test counselors in the nation, and went on to train other counselors for the AIDS Health Project, under the auspices of the California Office of AIDS.

In 1990, she went to work for AIDS-

COM, an organ of the U.S. State Department's Agency for International Development. AIDSCOM was establishing AIDS control programs in Africa and the Caribbean, and Brookman was sent as a consultant to Ghana, West Africa.

The number of AIDS cases in Ghana was low at the time, and government surveillance of the epidemic was minimal. Limited economic, medical, and social resources in Ghana were being funneled into more urgent concerns.

The need for HIV education, Brookman notes, was not understood, and Ministry of Health officials repeatedly queried, "If malaria is killing our people now, and the number of AIDS cases is low, why should we put our resources into HIV testing?"

Eventually, however, AIDSCOM was

able to convince the Ministry that HIV testing and counseling were not only prudent, but necessary.

In Ghana, Brookman's training sessions were not unlike the consciousness-raising work she had been doing throughout California. They consisted of exercises in values clarification and sensitivity awareness, along with guided visualizations.

For example, Brookman asked the African caregivers to try to imagine actually walking in the shoes of their clients. They envisioned themselves as being at risk for AIDS and going step by step through the process of being tested for HIV—from deciding what to wear to the test site and what form of transportation to take, to talking to counselors, doctors, and nurses about their own personal situation and feelings.

"Needless to say," Brookman says, "doing guided visualizations in Ghana was a big risk, but it was worth it. The people loved it!"

Due to the Gulf War, the State Department temporarily discontinued her overseas work in early 1991, and Brookman feared she would never get the chance to return to Africa.

But the ban was lifted in November of 1991, and with no more than \$100 worth of art supplies as training materials, she set out again—this time for Uganda, where the number of women with AIDS was becoming increasingly disproportionate to the number of men.

For two weeks, Brookman conducted "Care for the Caregiver" workshops at Mweya, a West Ugandan game reserve. Using journals, small group discussions, and dramatic skits, she worked with members of two different AIDS organizations—the AIDS Information Center and TASO, an outpatient clinic—both located in the capital of Kampala.

Because so many people are dying of AIDS in Uganda, she explains, caregivers tend to deny themselves breaks, and may even attempt to work 24 hours a day. (It is not unusual for AIDS counselors to see clients in their homes at night, as well as in the clinic during the day.)

Brookman tried to teach the workers that they could not give good care to others if they were not taking care of themselves. She encouraged them to enjoy activities not connected to caring for the sick, in order to avoid burnout.

"We discussed the personal struggle of maintaining boundaries when the need to provide services to so many people is so great," she says.

"Boundary-setting is not a part of Ugandan culture, so these discussions produced intense debate."

TASO counselors serve people at a ratio of one counselor to 130 patients, most of whom have full-blown AIDS. When clients are unable to travel to the clinic,

Continued on Page 10

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Walking in the Shoes of African AIDS Patients

Continued from Page 9

the workers engage in arduous journeys, traveling long hours over pitted dirt roads, to reach villages outside Kampala.

Once there, they check in with villagers to make sure they're receiving appropriate medical attention, to see if their practical needs are being met, and to provide emotional support and advice.

Brookman accompanied the TASO coun-

selors on some of these home visits. "The experience was amazing," she says. "Once we finally arrived in a village, we had to ask villagers where so-and-so lived. There are no streets, no addresses. The act of locating one person alone can take a long time."

Village after village, she notes, was filled with AIDS survivors. Children who had lost their parents to the disease were commonplace. Often children and elders were the sole survivors in a village. In one home Brookman visited, the children were being raised by a sister who was dying of AIDS.

Not only was the experience incredibly moving, but "it was life-changing for me," Brookman recalls. "I surrendered to the environment of the game reserve,

and got comfortable with hippos grazing on my front lawn, with lizards on my bedroom wall, and huge African cockroaches everywhere.

"And I fell head over heels in love with the people. I can't imagine life without them."

Back in her apartment on 28th Street, Brookman surrounds herself with colorful batiks and other mementos from her African excursions. She maintains her private practice as a psychotherapist, and continues to facilitate HIV/AIDS training workshops for a variety of organizations in San Francisco and across the state. She also hopes to return to East Africa, to do follow-up work with groups already trained.

On the most fundamental social and

political levels, Brookman points out, HIV training in Africa could be the basis for a mini-revolution.

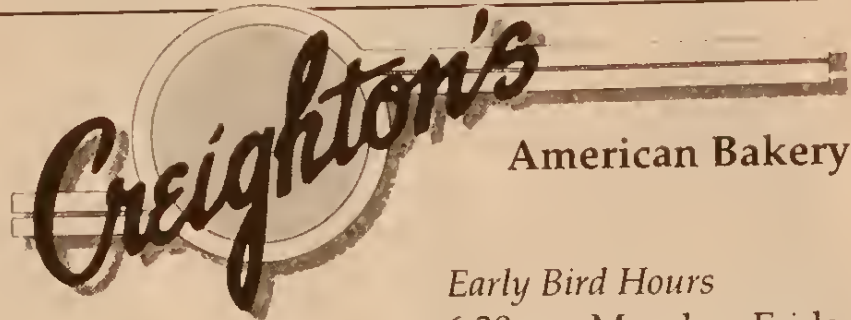
"By mini-revolution," she says, "I mean that if the cultural norms and roles that encourage vulnerability to HIV are identified, an attempt can be made to change these roles, which ultimately could result in women accessing more power in their lives—the power to say no, the power to have more social and economic options.

"If laws are enforced that are sensitive to women's issues, women will have more legal recourse in every area of their lives. These are merely possibilities, but in a situation where the AIDS epidemic is devastating the people of Uganda, gender-related training does represent a profound opportunity for social change." □

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CRUISE TALK

By LORI CARSTENS



Wow, was my Thanksgiving Dinner great! A giant roasted turkey, creamy whipped potatoes with savory smooth gravy, beautifully-molded cranberry sauce, raw vegetable garnishes carved into rosettes and adorable vignettes, freshly baked breads and rolls of every shape and hue, fabulous dessert cart, etc, etc, etc. And I didn't have to cook, clean or drive at all! Did I spend the day at the home of a nearby gourmet chef? Not exactly... I spent Thanksgiving on board a cruise ship. What a way to go for the holidays!

It just so happened that I was scheduled to escort a group of 20 aboard a Regency cruise the week of November 21, which of course included Thanksgiving on board. At first I was hesitant — how could I miss all that good old home cookin'? But let me tell you, spending this holiday aboard ship made it one of the most relaxing days I can think of—pampered by the ship staff, served scrumptious and meticulously prepared food, live entertainment (and I'm not talking charades.)

Think about getting your family together to spend next Thanksgiving or Christmas on board a cruise ship. As you gather together this year for Aunt Mayzie's traditional lumpy gravy, you might want to talk about having your next family holiday gathering on a cruise ship. Spend your money on memories instead of funny ties! Why not give yourselves the best gift of all.... the gift of Travel. I guarantee that it will be one holiday dinner you'll all remember.

(P.S. Some cruise lines still have space on their Christmas cruises this year. Give us a jingle to find out about it!)

1299 Church Street
(415) 550-1899



PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Music at the Ministry

The Noe Valley Ministry, located at 1021 Sanchez St., will be filled with song and celebration during the month of December.

On Saturday, Dec. 4, at 2 p.m., Al Einhorn, who's a whiz on guitar and kazoo, will entertain parents and kids at a holiday songfest sponsored by Natural Resources Pregnancy and Childbirth Resource Center.

The event will cost \$4.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children over 1. For details, call Natural Resources at 550-2611.

Next on the musical agenda is the Voci Women's Chamber Choir, whose members will perform Kirke Mechem's *Seven Joys of Christmas* on Sunday, Dec. 12, at 2 p.m. General admission for this classical concert, which is sponsored by the Noe Valley Chamber Music Series, is \$8; \$5 for students and seniors.

You'll have two chances to get in the holiday spirit on Sunday, Dec. 19. First, after meeting at the Ministry at 6 p.m., you can link arms with other Noe Valley residents and go Christmas caroling in the neighborhood. Song sheets will be provided, and carolers will wind up at a neighborhood home where refreshments will be served.

Or at 7 p.m. that same evening, you can attend a sing-along concert led by a Bach choir. The event is free, and will be held in the sanctuary of the church.

Finally, on Friday, Dec. 24, you are invited to join the Noe Valley Ministry's congregation at a Christmas Eve service beginning at 7 p.m.

For more information, contact the Ministry at 282-2317.

Merchants Make Merry

Over the past few weeks, the members of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association have been as busy as Santa's elves, transforming Noe Valley into a festive place for the holidays.

According to Association President J.P. Gillen, the neighborhood's telephone poles were decorated with red and green in late November. And on Friday, Dec. 3, stores in the neighborhood will throw the switch on their holiday lights between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m., as a cable car bearing carolers rolls up and down 24th Street.

Four days later, all owners of Noe Valley businesses, as well as professionals who work in the neighborhood, are invited to a holiday party sponsored by the Merchants Association—and you don't have to be a member to attend this free event. The party, which will feature "A Taste of Noe Valley," a sampling of delicacies from neighborhood restaurants, will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 7, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Bank of America,

SHORT TAKES

24th and Castro streets.

On Sunday, Dec. 18, the merchants have invited Old St. Nick to drop in on Noe Valley. Santa will be at Bank of America's 24th Street branch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. He'll be handing out trinkets to neighborhood children, and finding out if they've been naughty or nice. Don't forget to bring the camera!

Gillen notes that if you can't make it to the holiday party on Dec. 7, you may still want to drop by the bank, which is sponsoring a Toys for Tots drive from Dec. 1 to 18. Just bring a new unwrapped toy to put under the tree.

During the same period, the Merchants Association is also sponsoring a food drive for the San Francisco Emergency Food Bank. You can donate canned goods at any of the participating stores on 24th Street and elsewhere in Noe Valley (look for posters in the windows of the merchants) and receive a discount on shop purchases.

For more information about any of the above events, contact Gillen at 821-1515.

Find Your Ecological Niche

If you are interested in helping to clean up the environment but don't know where to begin, the Green City Volunteer Network can point you in the right direction. The Network, a project of the Planet Drum Foundation, which has its headquarters on 30th Street in Noe Valley, lists over 140 organizations working on ecology issues in the Bay Area.

Opportunities for involvement range from planting and gardening, wild animal care, trail-building, and habitat and creek restoration, to newsletter production, political advocacy, school projects, recycling, art, scientific research, and computer programming.

Sabrina Merlo, Green City's project coordinator, acts as a matchmaker, pairing volunteers with organizations. For example, she might find a computer expert to help Pesticide Action Network with its database needs, or refer someone who enjoys hands-on outdoor work to the Bernal Hilltop Native Grassland Restoration Project.

According to Merlo, the Planet Drum Foundation "promotes the concept of bio-regionalism—the understanding that where you live is a living place that you are connected to."

To learn more, call Merlo at 285-6556.

For Voluminous Aluminum

Noe Valley residents now have another recycling option with the opening of a

Reynolds Aluminum Recycling Center at 1245 South Van Ness Ave. (corner of 23rd Street). The center is open Tuesday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. It is also open on Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1:30 to 4 p.m.

The center pays cash for aluminum beverage cans, starting at 70 cents a pound, and offers a 2-cent per pound bonus for flattened cans. Seniors 55 and older receive a bonus of 2 cents per pound on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The company also buys used aluminum items such as siding, gutters, screen door and window frames, and lawn furniture tubing, plus many household products such as aluminum foil, frozen food and dinner trays, and pudding and pie containers. Aluminum castings, including automobile parts, pots and pans, lawn mower housings, and barbecue grills are also purchased by the company.

Reynolds has a second recycling center at 633 Bayshore Blvd., which is open Monday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information, call 1-800-228-2525.

Come to the Aid of Shanti

Volunteers are urgently needed by the Shanti Project to help continue its mission of providing services to people with HIV and AIDS.

Since last spring, the agency has experienced a severe decline in the number of active and new volunteers, according to John Conley, director of client services. "On average, we have about 50 people in our volunteer services training classes," he says. "Only 14 participated in the last training, held in October."

Shanti's "practical support" volunteers help their clients with cleaning, cooking, laundry, and running errands. The "emotional support" volunteers are trained to provide a sympathetic ear to people who may have been rejected by friends and family, or who just need someone to talk to.

Shanti's next volunteer training sessions will be held Dec. 3, 4, 5, and 11. Call Darnell Stinson, at 777-CARE, for additional training dates or further information.

Seniors Sell Crafts

The 30th Street Senior Center will hold its fourth annual Christmas Bazaar on Tuesday, Dec. 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the third-floor social room at 225 30th St. (near Chenery).

Gift items crafted by seniors who have participated in activities at the center—including hand-painted scarves, crocheted and woven items, and marbled notecards—will be for sale. Baked goods will also be available, to purchase for gift-giving or simply to enjoy while shopping.

All money raised will go to support a variety of daily recreational activities, crafts projects, and classes at the senior center.

Call 550-2210 for more information.

The New Pickles

The New Pickle Circus (formerly the Pickle Family Circus) is back in town! And the popular one-ring circus troupe, now in its 19th year, has a dilly of a new show, which will be staged this month at Fort Mason's Cowell Theater.

"Tossing and Turning," running Dec. 14 through Jan. 2, recounts the story of a clown named Razz and his attempts to get a good night's sleep. The show features bicycle stunt riders, jugglers, pole-climbers, hoop-divers, and a "pillow" ballet, set to original music performed live by the Pickles' jazz band.

Conceived and staged by veteran choreographer/dancer Tandy Beal, "Tossing and Turning" received rave reviews during a U.S.-Canadian tour earlier this year.

Tickets range from \$16 to \$20 for adults, and \$10 to \$14 for students age 2 to 18. For more information and an exact performance schedule, call City Box Office at 392-4400.

This month's "Short Takes" were written and compiled by Michele Lynn and Steve Steinberg.

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POLICE BEAT

Police and Pedestrians Getting Fed up With Ruckus At Local Bar

By Officer Lois Perillo

Over the past year, numerous people have stopped me to report the verbal harassment they have received from bar patrons as they walked past a particular Noe Valley bar. They have also voiced complaints about loud music spilling out of the bar.

In explaining their reasons for "just telling" me about the incidents rather than making an official police report, the complainants have said, "I just wanted you to know. Maybe you can stop it. Their behavior really bothers me, but I'm not sure whether it's criminal."

For your information, both types of incidents disturb the peace, create a public nuisance, and may violate laws such as the Ralph Act, which protects citizens from hate or bias crimes.

More than once I have asked this bar's workers and patrons to discontinue the harassment of passersby. I've especially tried to stop the most harmful behavior—the bar's patrons yelling derogatory, often sexist, slurs at people on the street.

On Nov. 14 just before 6 p.m., I again witnessed the catcalling and noticed loud music emanating from the bar. When I entered, I was met by resistance to acknowledge the existence of any harassment, as well as the management's reluctance to take action to stop it.

The bartenders and some of the patrons even interfered in my investigation, refusing to cooperate. Therefore, I called a police supervisor to the bar, who clearly advised the bartenders that their failure to stop the high-noise levels and verbal harassment by bar patrons would be considered a public nuisance and result in a citation.

Mission Police Station's permit officer, John Land, has requested a meeting with the bar's owner. In the meantime, anyone who has been subjected to verbal harassment by bar patrons or disturbed by loud bar music within the past year, please contact me at Mission Station.

Significant Number of Break-ins

One commercial, two garage, and eight residential burglaries were reported in my area of Noe Valley from mid-October to mid-November.

Of the residential burglaries, five occurred during the 9-to-5 work week, and three happened on the weekend while residents were away.

In the last incident, on Thursday, Nov. 18, at about 10:15 p.m., a 44-year-old woman returned to her home in the 1200 block of Noe Street and heard movement in the rear of her house. The woman released her dog, which ran toward the sound and apparently frightened the suspect, who exited the house and fled through the back yard.

Please take note that the police officer who responded to this incident found that the suspect had gotten in via an unlocked rear door.

The two garage burglaries took place on a Thursday early morning and a Monday early evening. In one of the incidents, the vent in the garage door was pried open, giving the suspect access to the door lock. This burglary might have been avoided if the homeowner had installed an inside cover or hood over the vent.

News Flash: I just got word that a burglary suspect was caught Nov. 22 in the back yard of a home in the first block of Homestead Street. The suspect was spotted by an alert neighbor and later identified by two people who had been burglarized the week before, at separate residences in Noe Valley. Good work, residents!

Robbery Roundup

In the latter part of October, there were three street robberies in my stretch of Noe Valley.

A 41-year-old man was robbed of his wallet by a group of teenagers on Oct. 23 at about 9:30 p.m. The man was at the laundromat at 23rd and Douglass streets when three boys about 16 years of age pinned him against a dryer, took his wallet from his pocket, removed money from the wallet, and returned the wallet to him. The suspects then ran away.

On Oct. 26, at 10:30 p.m., a 24-year-old woman who had exited her parked car was targeted by an 18-year-old man. As the woman walked east on Elizabeth toward Castro Street, she heard a person running behind her. After she turned to face the suspect, he grabbed her day pack. She then struggled with the suspect until he pushed her down. The targeted woman's screams alerted neighbors, who called the police. The suspect escaped with the pack, and the woman sustained bruises in the struggle.

In the third incident, a 23-year-old man was robbed of his wallet at 25th and Guerrero streets on Halloween night at approximately 10:15 p.m.

Auto Boost Almost Foiled

A 24-year-old woman who spotted two unknown men inside her parked car at Diamond and Clipper streets on Oct. 31, at 11 p.m., yelled until the men exited and fled in a waiting Oldsmobile Cutlass. Unfortunately, she came upon the scene after her car's window had been broken and the stereo removed.

A Positive Response

Many of you will remember my writing about two 15-year-olds who were caught with stolen guns at 24th and Noe streets last July. That story contained an error.

I wrote, "The gun shop's [assistant] manager told me that boys matching their description had been in his shop earlier that day, as well as the day before, even though federal law prohibits persons



Mission Police Officer Lois Perillo patrols a beat that centers on 24th Street and extends from 21st and Grand View to Army and Valencia streets. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

under 18 from entering a gun shop."

I received a call from the manager of Highbridge Arms, after a Noe Valley resident showed him the *Voice*. The manager pointed out that although minors under 18 are prohibited from purchasing a gun, any person of any age can enter a gun shop.

I stand corrected and applaud the manager's ultimate response: he has installed a secure lock on the handgun display case, and he is revamping the store's interior to prevent behind-the-counter access. Well done.

And Here's Bob!

Last month Bob Kim, everyone's favorite UPS driver, made his debut on 24th Street wearing a navy blue uniform. Wait a minute! Has UPS changed its colors? Doesn't Bob wear brown? Yes, except when he's living his other life as an S.F.P.D. reserve police officer.

Bob joined me for a day of patrol on Nov. 13. He helped me move those double-parkers along (don't "advise" too many,

I told him; cite a few or they will continue to do it 'cause they can get away with it), say hi to the merchants (if you take their packages while you're in S.F.P.D. uniform, Bob, don't guarantee two-day delivery), and pull over a suspected drunk driver.

I really enjoyed working with Bob, who did a great job. His positive attitude conveyed the excitement of a rookie and the common sense and good judgment of a seasoned officer.

What do you think? Should we do it more often?

Mission Station has a new captain, Joaquin Santos, an extremely community-oriented manager who welcomes your input. Write him at 1240 Valencia St., San Francisco, CA 94110.

Until next time, be safe and see you on patrol. □

Officer Lois Perillo is a member of the San Francisco Police Department's Community Police On Patrol program (CPOP). She can be reached at Mission Station's CPOP number, 647-2767.

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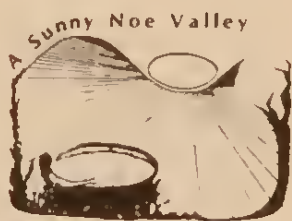
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Kim Goldner Holds Her Own as Woman Firefighter

By Kathy Dalle-Molle

Like most members of the post-Baby Boom era, Kim Goldner, 25, wanted to do something a little different with her life. But unlike most Generation X'ers, Goldner ended up becoming a firefighter—one of only 55 women in the 1,300-member San Francisco Fire Department.

After enduring a grueling four-month training period last spring, Goldner became the lone woman firefighter at the Hunters Point-Bayview Fire Station. (At presstime, she was being transferred to the Presidio Station, where she will also be the only female on staff.)

"It's very strange to be the only woman around," says Goldner, who shares a Eureka Street home with her boyfriend, Tim McKeon.

"It's nine men and me on a shift. But everybody is very nice, and most of them have become good friends. It's strange, though, because men talk about different things when I'm around. They try to curb their talk, especially those who still talk about women in a derogatory manner. And they don't cuss around me as much as they might otherwise."

A San Francisco native, Goldner attended San Francisco State University, where she earned a political science degree in 1990.

"That didn't get me anywhere," she says. "I was waiting tables at Noe's Bar and Grill and decided to take the written



One of the few female firefighters in San Francisco, Kim Goldner still battles gender stereotypes, but loves her work. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

civil service test required to get into the Fire Department. There were 6,000 people taking the test, and I really didn't think I'd get into the department. But I lucked out."

Goldner was one of 70 people selected to go through the Fire Department's rigorous training program, which combines exercise, home and classroom study, and hands-on learning of firefighting, rescue, and emergency procedures.

San Francisco firefighters are on duty for 24 hours, then off for the next 48 hours. Their workday begins at 8 a.m., generally with maintenance and cleaning tasks.

Goldner and her male counterparts cook meals together—usually fish or chicken and a salad or vegetables. When night falls, Goldner and the nine male firefighters on duty sleep in a large 20-bed bay. Since the Hunters Point Station does

not have a separate bathroom and shower for women, Goldner often tries to rise earlier in the morning than the other firefighters to use the facilities.

"I've become comfortable around the guys I'm working with," she says. "People don't walk around naked or anything, and if they know I'm using the shower or bathroom, they don't come in."

Since joining the department, Goldner has fought two fairly large fires, including a two-alarm fire at a three-story Victorian home.

"The stairs were burnt out in the back," says Goldner, "but fortunately no lives were lost. At first, I was really excited about fighting the fire, but then I saw all the people who lived there who had lost all their possessions, and that was very depressing."

"That is one of the toughest parts of this job. Being a firefighter is kind of a thrill-seeking job. There's a lot of danger. And once you're fighting that fire, your adrenaline is really flowing. Then the tenants come home, and you see them hysterical because they've lost their homes. And that takes you down in a minute."

Ironically, however, firefighters devote only a small part of their job to putting out fires, Goldner says. On average, the Hunters Point Station gets one fire call a week, she says, and that might be "just a single room and contents on fire, a mattress fire, or a car fire."

"Fires are very rare now," Goldner explains, "because of all the fire safety. Twenty years ago, there weren't sprinklers in the buildings, and fire codes weren't as stringent."

These days, 60 percent of a firefighter's time is spent responding to medical emergencies.

"We usually get to the scene of a medical emergency before the paramedics because we're right in the neighborhood," says Goldner. "We get a lot of gunshot calls in Hunters Point. Half the gunshot incidents we deal with aren't even re-

Continued on Page 16

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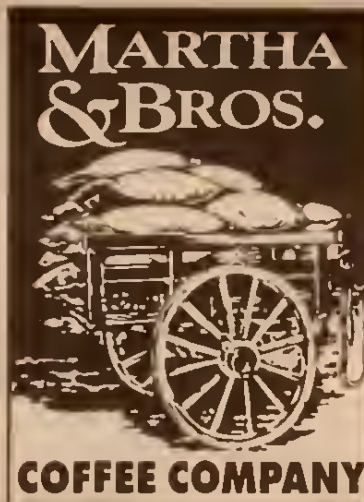
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Firefighter Does Her Job, And a Little Waitressing On the Side

Continued from Page 15

ported in the news. Most of the time the calls involve 17, 18, 19-year-old kids. Some are gang-related, and some are just because someone got pissed off and this is what they do now when they get mad."

Nonetheless, Goldner says the medical work is rewarding. "We really save lives," she explains. "It sounds like a cliché, but I get to a scene and this guy is shot and I can really do something because I can get there faster than the paramedics."

"Fires, on the other hand, spread so quickly that we can help protect the neighborhood from burning down, but we really aren't able to save a home most of the time."

Along with firefighting and medical emergency work, San Francisco firefighters contend with a variety of wacky requests from city residents. When one Bayview resident locked himself out of his third-story apartment, Goldner had to climb through his apartment window to open the front door.

Other times residents have called about water leaks—"just a little drip, drip, drip from the faucet, nothing major," says Goldner. And one time, when an RV got stuck under a sign in the parking lot at Candlestick Park, the driver called Goldner's station to help pull the sign out of the truck.

"We do whatever we can do," she says.

Does Goldner expect to see more women firefighters in the city's future?



On Thursday nights, Kim Goldner exchanges her long shifts at the Fire Department for the heat of the kitchen at Noe's Bar and Grill, where she waits tables. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

"It's a tough job," she says. "It's really physically challenging [a typical 50-foot ladder used by firefighters weighs 450 pounds and takes six people to lift]. I believe it's geared to be a man's job. I believe women nowadays are fit enough and strong enough, but for the most part we have to work a little harder at it than men. I have to go to the gym and work out a bit more to equal the natural strength of a man."

But Goldner will do whatever it takes to do the job right. That's why she gets irked when she's sometimes given special treatment by her male colleagues.

"Last night, for instance, I was putting down something and this one guy tells me, 'It's heavy. Be careful.' I thought, he never would have said that to a man. And

I'm sorry he had to say that to me because I should be able to do the job without question. Everybody has to pull their weight."

Although a 1991 report from a federal affirmative action monitor stated that there were incidents in the San Francisco Fire Department of sexual harassment of female firefighters (such as receiving threatening or obscene phone calls, as well as suggestive gifts and physical threats), Goldner does not believe harassment in the department is widespread.

"I'd say there's a minimal amount of harassment in the Fire Department," she says, "and it hasn't affected me. It's comparable to that on any job, except that the dynamics in the Fire Department are a little different because we're together for

24 hours at a stretch.

"I think harassment exists, but I don't think it's prevalent. I wondered about it going in, though—not so much harassment, but the cliques and boys' clubs. I'm used to going to work and getting along with everybody and forming nice work relationships. I was worried that might not happen. But I've really lucked out. I work with a great bunch of guys."

Despite her hectic schedule, Goldner still works as a waitress Thursday nights at Noe's Bar and Grill, a job she's held for the past 3½ years.

"It's basically to socialize," she says. "I know all the regulars and my sister Zoe works there, and this is a chance to see her."

As for her firefighting career, Goldner concludes, "I could do this forever. But I'm not sure how long I'll last. There are a great deal of 50-year-old men on the force, but we haven't yet had a 50-year-old woman doing the job."

"Do you picture a 50-year-old woman doing this job? I don't. We have women in their early 40s on the force right now, so in the next 10 years we'll certainly find out." □



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James Appenrodt of Laurel Realty helped found the Outer Noe Valley Merchants Association, representing businesses along the Church Street commercial corridor. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

Merchants Band Together On 'Outer' Church Street

By Loren J. Bialik

The Voice has a new organization to add to its "More Groups to Join" column: the Outer Noe Valley Merchants Association, founded Nov. 3 to serve businesses along the southern end of Church Street.

The association is the brainchild of Andy Kapiniaris, owner of Verona Pizza at 30th and Church streets, and Jim Appenrodt, of Laurel Realty on 29th Street.

Kapiniaris, who was born in Greece and emigrated to this country in 1970, was inspired to form the alliance by a

group of immigrants he much admires. "In the Richmond District, Russian Jews have come here, and they help each other," he says. "We in Noe Valley have to do the same."

Kapiniaris says the association's main goal is to promote "the old and new stores cropping up in the neighborhood and to fight crime and graffiti."

The two business owners define "outer" Noe Valley as the area centered on Church Street between 27th and 30th, extending to Guerrero on the east and Diamond on the west.

"It's a unique little neighborhood with a beautiful church [St. Paul's]," says Appenrodt, a Marin County resident who has run his realty business in Noe Valley for the past 10 years.

Several new stores and restaurants have opened in recent months, and about 20 merchants showed up for the group's

first meeting in November.

Tom Maravilla, the "Tom" in the new MikeyTom Market, an upscale grocery store and deli that was set to open at Church and Day streets by Thanksgiving, has agreed to become the association's treasurer. And the group hopes to lure into the fold the S.F. Coffee Co., which is opening a branch at Church and Duncan streets this month.

According to Kapiniaris, on top of the agenda is boosting "customer awareness, promotion, and publicity" for the membership.

The association also plans to organize an anti-graffiti patrol and a phone tree, which would be used to alert members of thefts and suspicious criminal activity at participating businesses. In the nine years since he opened Verona Pizza, the restaurant has been broken into five times, Kapiniaris said.

In addition, the Outer Noe Valley Merchants Association wants to pitch in to raise money for St. Paul's Church and its surrounding school buildings, which were threatened with closing by the Catholic Archdiocese last month (*see story, page 1*). This goal is particularly close to Appenrodt's heart, he says, because his parents attended St. Paul's schools.

Any merchant in outer Noe Valley can join the new association, "including professionals and people who work out of their homes," says Appenrodt. Dues are \$50 a year.

The founders plan to hold meetings once a month at participating restaurants and cafes. The next meeting has been scheduled for Dec. 8.

To join up, or to find out more about the Outer Noe Valley Merchants, call Appenrodt at 641-1500. □

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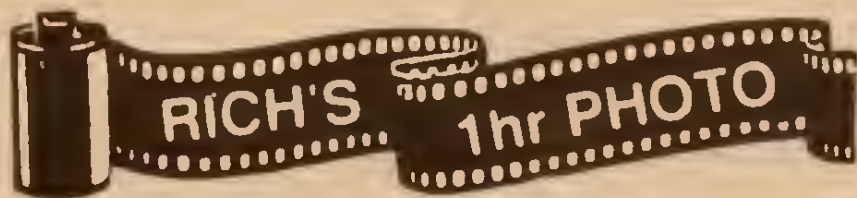
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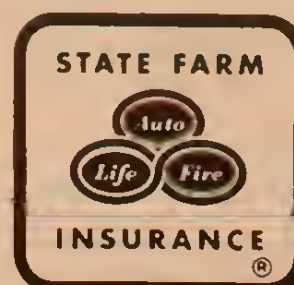
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Multimedia Recording Co. Conjures up Musical Magic

By Jeff Kaliss

Over the tops of the high-tech computer equipment at the City of Tribes/Zoe Magic nerve center on Fountain Street, Bryan Hughes gazes through a huge picture window at Noe Valley and the city beyond.

"It's by chance that we ended up here," he muses. But after a moment, he realizes that he might have chosen the perfect spot for a recording company that is on the cutting edge of entertainment.

"I've had some people tell me that this hill is very important, because the Indians used to live here," he notes. "This was the site of one of their burial grounds."

Hughes and partner Jim Hopkins are also following in a more recent spiritual tradition. They're expanding consciousness with their development of "trance" music and virtual-reality systems, much as "acid" rock accompanied political and psychedelic experimentation a quarter of a century ago.

"People, when they come to San Francisco, feel this crackle in the air," testifies Hughes, who was still a toddler in Idaho during 1968's Summer of Love. "There's an energy here which is like this spark of life, and it inspires people to take their visions and follow them."

"This is really the happening spot in America, kind of on a line with Europe," adds Hopkins, 28. "What's already a year old here is only just happening in Florida and maybe Texas."

That includes virtual reality, still in its infancy, which allows the user to interact more completely and actively with computer-generated images and sound. Hughes was helping develop that new medium when he hooked up with Hopkins.

"I helped design and wrote a lot of the code on the Sensate software out of Sausalito," notes Hughes. "And I helped produce some of the Toontown raves," trendy late-night events that envelop party-goers in pulsating dance music, visual effects, and "smart drugs," again echoing the hippie era.

"I'd been working for various remix services," says Hopkins, "providing deejays with alternative versions of current music to help extend the life of the records and help promote them for the record companies."

The two men decided they could do better on their own.

"The club business was pretty nasty, with very slimy, snaky people," says Hughes. "They'd use people and wouldn't pay them. I wanted to still be involved in the scene, but not with the clubs, and forming the Zoe Magic label was a good



Jim Hopkins (seated) and Bryan Hughes are wizards of the computer chip, creating ultramodern wonders for the ear and eye on their City of Tribes and Zoe Magic labels, headquartered in their recording studio on Fountain Street. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

way to do that.

"The other reason was that Jim and I had become friends with a lot of the groups that were up-and-coming here in San Francisco, and we realized that a lot of other labels, the majors, weren't paying attention to them. We got together with the artists and started releasing their music."

"The Zoe Magic label is going more for the dance underground sound, artists like Young American Primitive, Single Cell Orchestra, and Daisy Glow," explains Hopkins.

"And City of Tribes is going more for ethnic-type world music. That's Trance Mission and Lights in a Fat City." The latter two groups include at least a couple of Noe Valley residents: Steven Kent plays the Australian aboriginal didgeridoo for Lights in a Fat City, and clarinetist Beth Custer records and performs locally with the band Trance Mission.

"Another way to look at it is, City of Tribes is the acoustic version of Zoe Magic's electronic version," says Hughes. "People have been pressing us to come up with a name for our music, but there really isn't any. You usually have to say, 'New Age Tribal Ethnic Percussion,' because one word just doesn't do it."

"And that's really because we're defining a whole new genre of music. In magazines, they're calling our music 'Trance.' That's minimalism, but it's not like Philip Glass, where you have minimalistic instruments taking a long time to make a chord progression. There are lots of full-bodied ethnic instruments that go back to the roots of the music. And it's music that tells a story, though none of our songs follows the chorus-verse-chorus formula."

Many of the Zoe Magic releases are on the what now seems old-fashioned 12-inch vinyl format, allowing better manipulation by club deejays and affordability by college and alternative radio stations that lack CD equipment.

"On each 12-inch, we put on three or four different songs, and maybe a couple of versions of one of them," notes Hughes. "You'll have maybe a slamming-grungy-acid version, and also a really nice ambient track, very slow."

The music is played wherever "you find the cultural edge forming," he continues, "in the 20 to 28-year-old age

group, [in clubs] like Product, Corduroy City, Sound Factory, 1015 Folsom, and Townsend, ranging from the gay to the straight scene, and at some of the underground parties where people just go to dance, not to get dates or get drunk."

Since their debut release of the group Tasty Box a couple of years ago, "things have skyrocketed," says Hughes.

"We started the labels out of the garage of this house with \$5,000, and now we have six people working full-time, three of them in our New York office, and 12 artists signed. . . . We've had eight vinyl releases and three CDs this year," many of them available at Streetlight Records and Aquarius Records on 24th Street.

Plans for the new year include an interactive CD-ROM, combining the music of Young American Primitive with video images in what Hughes describes as "an interactive journey through shamanism. You'll see subplots unfolding, small factual journeys into shamanism, and you can click and choose any of the images—such as an Indian smoking a peace pipe during a sun ceremony—as they're flying by."

Other upcoming releases will feature what Hughes calls "an ambient compilation, in real-time binaural 3-D audio, but all generated by a computer," and "a video of straight psychedelic beautiful images, kind of like the footage you may have seen at certain raves, something you can play as a background in your life while you're listening to music." He boasts that "we're beating almost everybody to everything, because what we've accomplished in the last 12 months has taken some of the majors years."

It is City of Tribes/Zoe Magic's conception as a multimedia production company that keeps it in the avant garde, along with its visionary use of technology.

"We're in the process of networking our New York office to San Francisco via the Internet," Hughes points out. "And artists will be able to log into our office from their homes, so suddenly the com-

puter power we're building will be available to them via the phone line. . . . We're going to be expanding to 17 gigabytes of storage space, which will accommodate 60 minutes of 16-channel hard-disk recording and editing."

That's in addition to their computer-managed business systems, which, Hughes says, "can do a detailed profitability analysis on each project to find out the demographics of where things are selling, who's buying what, and how they're buying it." They're doing well in Europe, and are slowly securing an identity in the domestic market.

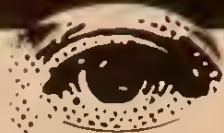
The partners also commanded attention at the Gavin Convention and the New Music Seminar earlier this year with their virtual reality booths.

"We want to be the first label to release a virtual band," says Hughes, "where you'll go to a place, maybe a mall, where there's a virtual reality system set up. You put on the helmet and the headphones, and you then become another member of the band and the video team, and you help form everything. Then we can record what you're hearing and seeing, and give you a videotape of it at the end of the session."

But Hughes hopes to avoid generating future shock with his machines. "If we achieve a virtual environment, we're empowering the individual," he claims. "It's a helpful tool created by an artist, to help you see images that are unique to your head."

He takes another easterly look past the trees and Victorian rooftops. "Our biggest problem is not getting too far ahead, because people can lose track of you," he admits. "We're trying to make sure that we stay just on the horizon, so that everybody can still see us." □

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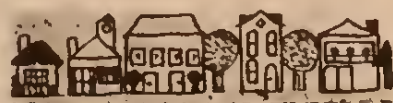
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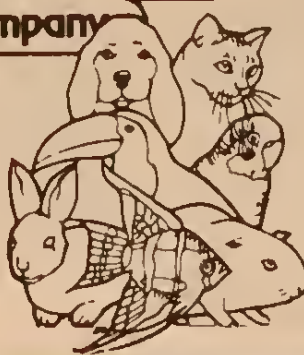
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Kwanzaa Kit Sheds Light On Seven-Day Celebration

By Kathy Dalle-Molle

The African-American holiday Kwanzaa, celebrated from Dec. 26 through Jan. 1, was created 27 years ago by U.S. black nationalist leader Maulana Ron Karenga to strengthen black families and promote the collective achievement of black communities.

But 25th Street resident Gwen Carmen is taking Karenga's idea one step further this year, hoping to transcend race and promote achievement among the entire Noe Valley community.

"I think Kwanzaa should be a holiday for all people, not just people of color," Carmen says. "It isn't just the Hispanic community that celebrates Cinco de Mayo or the Day of the Dead. These holidays transcend race. They are for everyone, and that's the way it should be with Kwanzaa."

In keeping with her suggestion, several Noe Valley merchants are helping Carmen to promote Kwanzaa this month. Using discounted supplies from Panetti's Gifts, Global Exchange, and Xela Imports (all on 24th Street), Carmen has put together a kit for celebrating the holiday. The kit consists of ceremonial candles, a candleholder, miniature corn, an African doll, and an African flag.

Panetti's, Global Exchange, and Rainbow Grocery in the Mission are selling the kit for \$49.95, and all proceeds will go toward support of *La Morena*, a three-times-a-year newspaper for women of color that Carmen edits.

"Most Kwanzaa kits cost around \$70 or \$80, but we really tried to keep the



Twenty-fifth Street resident Gwen Carmen displays the ceremonial Kwanzaa kit she's put together for sale at neighborhood stores this year. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

cost down," says Carmen. "We just wanted to make enough profit to do a writer's workshop this year and give free subscriptions to *La Morena* to women in prison."

The seven-day celebration of Kwanzaa borrows from the African tradition—particularly strong in agricultural societies—of bringing in the harvest. *Kwanzaa*, which in Swahili means "first fruits of the harvest," is celebrated by millions of African Americans throughout the United States.

According to Carmen, the largest celebrations are in New York and Los Angeles, but the number of observances around the country has increased dramatically over the past decade. The holiday is not affiliated with any religion.

"Kwanzaa is not a holiday we celebrate to replace Christmas," she notes. "Most of us celebrate Christmas, too. Kwanzaa is a reminder that African-

American people need to help one another. There are many African Americans who leave the ghetto and don't look back. I know I'm blessed to live in Noe Valley, but I still want to look back and help other African Americans."

The heart of Kwanzaa is the *nguzo saba*, which is Swahili for the seven principles of blackness, the essence of the holiday.

Those principles are *umoja* (unity), to strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race; *kuji-chagulia* (self-determination), to define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves, and speak for ourselves; *ujima* (collective work and responsibility), to build and maintain our community together and make our sisters and brothers' problems our own; *ujamaa* (cooperative economics), to build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses, and to profit from them together; *nia*

(purpose), to make our collective vocation the building of our community and the restoration of our people to their traditional greatness; *kuumba* (creativity), to do as much as we can to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it; and *imani* (faith), to believe with our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness of our struggle.

For each of the celebration's seven days, a candle is lighted and placed in a seven-cup African-style candleholder called a *kinara*. Observers gather each evening to light one of the candles and discuss how the principle of the day affects their life. Small gifts are often exchanged.

The Kwanzaa kinara holds three green candles to signify a prosperous future, three red candles for the struggle, and a black candle for Black unity. The celebration also makes use of a *bandera*, a flag of red, black, and green; and ears of corn, *muhindi*, to represent the children of the family.

The use of black, red, and green colors was inspired by the words of civil rights leader Marcus Garvey, who said, "Black is for the faces of our people, red for the struggle, and green for our hope."

Although Kwanzaa celebrations are becoming more widespread, Carmen is not worried about its falling into crass commercialism.

"The way Kwanzaa was set up keeps it from becoming too commercial," she says. "Macy's does not carry Kwanzaa gifts. And even if Kwanzaa did become a bit more commercial, at least it gives people seven important things to think about as they celebrate."

For information regarding Kwanzaa celebrations for the public in San Francisco, contact the Wajumbe Cultural Institution by calling 928-8546. □



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Your Low-Fat Wish Is My Command, Say Local Restaurants

By Jeanne Alexander

For diners-out in Noe Valley, cholesterol and Christmas are an inevitable pair, right? Wrong. At many Noe Valley restaurants, it's now possible to celebrate a low-fat and sometimes even a no-fat Noel.

That's because the cooks and chefs in our culinary kingdom have begun to cater to an increasingly health-conscious populace. They have gone out of their way to add low-fat dishes to their menus, as well as accommodate their customers' special requests.

One of the pioneers in the neighborhood's low-fat revolution is Vi Gianaras, chef-owner of Panos' Restaurant at the corner of 24th and Noe.

A couple of seasons ago, Gianaras decided to spruce up her dinner menu by including three exotic salads she'd already been offering at lunch. "We recognized that when people were on a low-fat diet, they weren't just on it for one meal of the day—lunch—they want to eat healthy all of the time," she says.

Gianaras also instituted a two-fish-a-meal policy, whereby the restaurant would guarantee two choices of seafood, which could either be grilled or sautéed. Steamed or grilled vegetables also became a standard complement.

She says Panos' most relished low-fat menu item these days is the Chicken Apple Walnut Salad. "It's one of those salads that rings all your bells at the same



You'll log fewer calories during the holidays with low-fat choices such as the Chocolate Chewy at What's for Dessert, chewed here by Janet Jones. PHOTOS BY BEVERLY THARP

time," says Gianaras. It not only contains grilled chicken, but the crunch of tart apples and walnuts, and a honey-mustard dressing (which waiters are happy to serve on the side—just ask, she says).

Another low-fat standout on the menu is the Athenian Pasta, "which has a medley of Mediterranean vegetables—eggplant, roasted red peppers, Kalamata olives, garlic, and olive oil, unless you've asked for it without."

In recent months, healthy cooking has also been on the mind of Jim Smith, co-owner of Little Italy Restaurant at 4109 24th St.

"Personally, I'm Mr. No-Fat," he says, adding that he himself jumped on the low-fat bandwagon about two years ago, in response to his own need to shift to healthier eating habits.

Although Italian cuisine is not generally considered low-fat, says Smith, the menu at Little Italy avoids cream sauces altogether, "and the chef uses as little olive oil as possible to make the dish right."

To those who are watching their fat (and calorie) intake, Smith recommends ordering broiled fish or linguine with clams or mussels in white sauce. The shellfish are sautéed in their shells with only enough oil to open them, he says, and the sauce is composed of garlic, herbs, and fish stock.

Across from Little Italy at Swatdee Thai Cuisine, 4166 24th St., the menu boasts 92 different dishes. "I think you can come here and eat for three months and never repeat a meal," laughs owner Rita Swatdee.

But aren't those Thai delicacies dripping with oil?

No, not if you don't want it. "All of our dishes can be made without oil," says Swatdee. She adds that any entree made with chicken, beef, or pork can also be converted to vegetarian, featuring spin-

ach, cabbage, carrots, broccoli, sweet basil, or garlic. ("Thai people eat a small head of garlic a day for healthy hearts," she notes.)

But before making a special request, Swatdee suggests that diners try one of the low-fat dishes already on the menu. "Vegi Yum has tasty silver noodles and mushrooms with fresh chili and lime juice," she advises. Another recommendation is the Spicy Tofu, sautéed with chili, garlic, and green onions.

Like Swatdee, Rami's Caffè at 1361 Church St. has adopted a flexible approach. "We usually put cream in our dishes, but we can do everything without cream," says Fain Clark, who's been serving patrons at Rami's for the past seven years.

Some items that are especially suited to low-fat consciousness, says Clark, are the Tamari Grilled Chicken, Sesame Chicken Pasta, the sautéed vegetables dish, and the Pasta Primavera.

By this time, reader, you must be ready for dessert. So mush on over to What's for Dessert at Church and 27th streets, where chef-owner Mervyn Mark has developed a whopper of a treat ("we experimented with it for six months"), which should permanently erase those sugar plums dancing in your head.

The Chocolate Chewy, a two-ounce cookie priced at \$1.15, is so deeply, satisfyingly chocolate—almost like a brownie—that it's hard to believe it's low-fat.

Baked with egg whites and cocoa powder (with a negligible amount of fat content, he says), the Chewies originally bore a sign saying "no-fat." But that was before Mark realized that the walnuts—they have a few sprinkled throughout—contain fat.

Nevertheless, they're currently the rage in "outer" Noe Valley, and customers-in-the-know stop by the cafe in the early afternoon, to get their Chewies

A Guilt-Free Recipe from What's for Dessert

Asked for a holiday recipe for home bakers (sorry, the Chocolate Chewy recipe is a well-kept secret), Mervyn Mark, owner of Church Street's What's for Dessert, dug into his file for one of his scrumptious low-fat specialties:

Cranberry-Applesauce Muffins

15 oz. flour
9 oz. baby oatmeal
1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
2 tsp. baking powder
1 1/2 tsp. baking soda
2 cups applesauce
1 cup non-fat milk
1 cup brown sugar
6 oz. fresh cranberries
1/3 cup canola oil
1/4 cup egg whites

Blend the brown sugar, oil, and egg whites in a mixing bowl. Add the non-fat milk and applesauce. Then mix in the rest of the dry ingredients and fold in the cranberries.

With an ice cream scooper if you have one, put globs of the mixture into standard muffin tins. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes, or until a toothpick comes out clean.

The recipe makes a baker's dozen (13 muffins). But Mervyn Mark says it's fine to double it and store half in the freezer. □



right out of the oven. Mark says they've become so popular, he now bakes a batch almost every day.

What's for Dessert also serves a low-fat banana bread, and intends to add more dishes as soon as Mark perfects them. "We're looking at a lot of different things, but you don't whip them up just like that. It takes time to get them right."

So yes, Virginia, there are some low-fat, good-tasting dishes to try at local restaurants over the holidays. They do require one additional ingredient, however—will power. □



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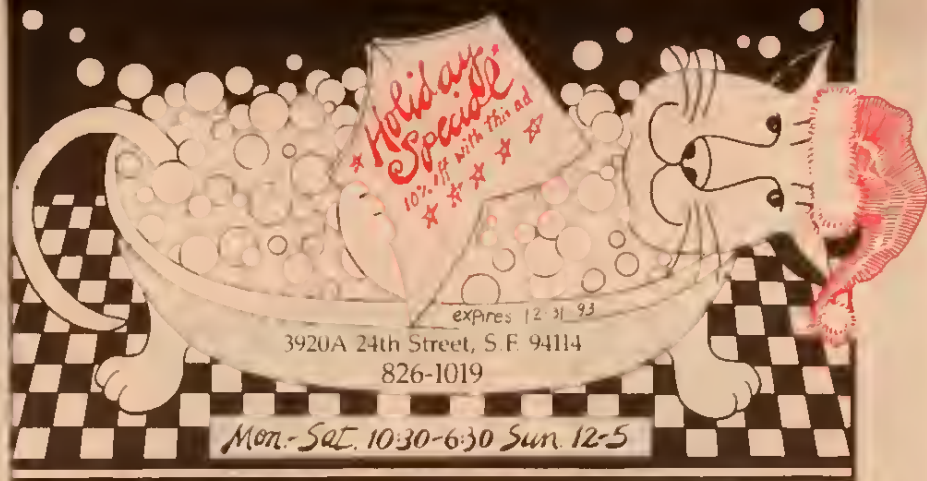
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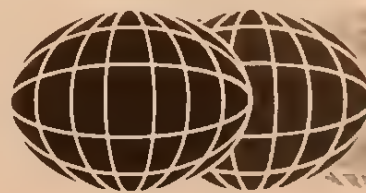


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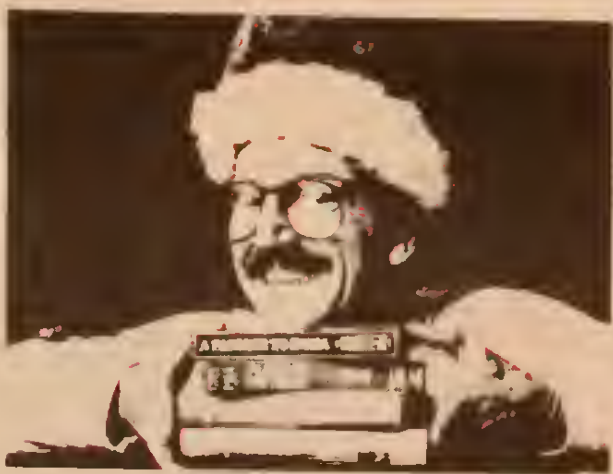
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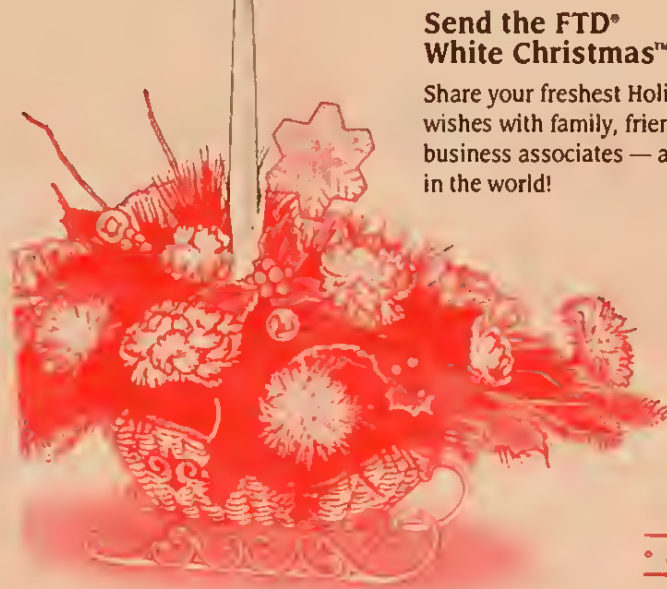
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Let BYLINES be BYLINES

By Kevin McGahan

I usually wake up on weekend mornings with a snarling, angry stomach. It demands satisfaction and has little patience. So I throw on whatever clothes are within my grasp, and shuffle on over to 24th Street to find some instant gratification. I always tell myself it's time for a change, but my stomach invariably coaxes me over to the Holey Bagel.

On any given weekend morning, the area outside the store has been transformed into a sidewalk fair. People gather in front of the shop (and the S.F. Coffee Company, too) to relax and soak up that long-awaited weekend feeling. The sidewalk swells with activity. Youngsters cavort between the two storefronts, frolicking with each other and with the ever-present dogs, not to mention another regular, Bailey, a large white parrot. The street musician turns up his keyboard a notch in order to be heard.

Weekday mornings are busy, too. Hungry people flow in and out of the tiny storefront in a steady stream. The sign above the door depicts the bagel as a sacred icon, emanating beams of light. I've always gotten a kick out of this image. But I can see from the blissful looks on many of the customers' faces that they actually do perceive the bagel as divine.

The inside of the store tries to capture a New York deli ambience. The space is small and cramped, and customers are surrounded on all sides by bins of bagels, trays of cookies and pastries, and display cases filled with assorted

deli meats and salads.

People dodge in and out of each other's way to get a better look at their choices. I sometimes feel as if I am in the middle of my Saturday morning basketball game. However, unlike the Saturday game, or the New York deli for that matter, there is little pushing or shoving or name-calling. Things always seem to move along just quickly enough to keep everybody satisfied.

During the week, I partake in my faceless commute to and from work. My fellow travelers and I may occasionally exchange a nod, or more often a sigh, but we rarely go beyond mild pleasantries.

On the weekends, however, I become part of a contingent hoping to escape the impersonal vibes that city life often brings. The sidewalk is a haven from the sense of isolation that possesses many city dwellers. It allows for a return to a time when a neighborhood was more than just a dozen square blocks. In front of Holey Bagel, neighborhood comes to mean family and friends gathered together in a happy time. It reminds me of the block parties of my youth back in New Jersey.

Speaking of youth, there is another facet of the store, besides the communal aspect, that always brings me pleasure. I love the attention given to children. The Holy Bagel makes miniature "baby bagels" for the little ones who come into the store, and these are given out for free. It's a small gesture for small people that goes over really big.

Also, upon stepping through the door, customers are greeted by a bulletin board featuring snapshots of kids. These aren't just photos fished out of some proud parent's wallet. They are shots that are taken by the staff right in the store. Each child has his or her name written across the bottom of the

photo, to lend an even more personal touch.

I can't tell you how much pride I take in seeing my nephew's picture on the bulletin board at Holey Bagel. I am convinced that this is Gabriel's first shot at stardom. Surely some talent scout will happen across his photo and realize that he has the next big child star within his grasp.

As I find myself nearing 30, I realize that I crave social spots that don't revolve around the consumption of alcohol. I still love a frosty brew, but the lack of diversity in the typical bar crowd leaves me wanting more. I find myself looking for an atmosphere that caters to all ages. I want to draw on the experience of my elders, to commiserate with my peers, and to marvel at the innocence of children.

I traveled to my Irish homeland with my mother and brother a few years back, and I found some of this generation-mixing in the pubs, of all places. I was enthralled by the scenes I would encounter. A Sunday afternoon would find a whole family of adults and children milling about the pub, laughing and catching up on local news and gossip. Their togetherness was inspiring, and made me long for something similar back in the States.

At the Holey Bagel, patrons don't get quite as rambunctious as they do in the Irish pubs, but they bounce from one group of family and friends to the next. This kind of camaraderie is what helps to define a neighborhood. One regular summed it up best when he told me, "This is our yard. And that's true for a lot of people here."

It is certainly true for me. When I



ILLUSTRATION BY KAROL BARSKE

need to feel the pulse of Noe Valley, I head on over for a garlic bagel, some cream cheese, and a couple of slices of tomato. My advice: go light on the cream cheese and double up on that good old neighborhood feeling. □

Kevin McGahan lives on 25th Street, only a couple of blocks away from the Holey Bagel, at 3872 24th St.

Attention, Wordsmiths

Let Bylines Be Bylines is your column, but no one will know it unless you send us something you've written. The *Voice* welcomes submissions of personal punditry, long-winded letters to the editor, and gripping accounts of daily life in Noe Valley. Please mail your manuscript, which should be typed, double-spaced, and fewer than 1,000 words (and include an address and phone number), to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. □

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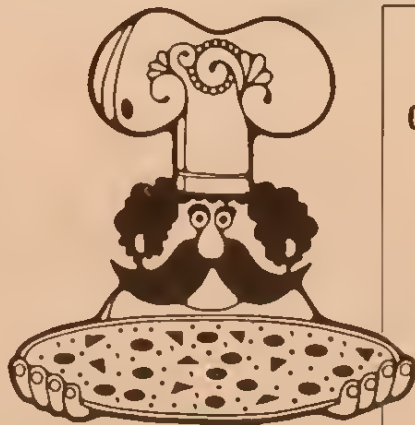
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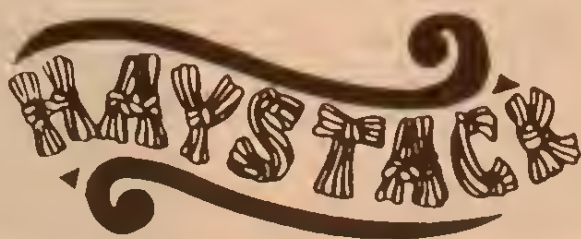
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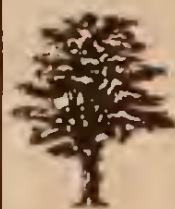
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STORE TREK

By Sheila Daniels

In this month's "Storetrek," a new art gallery provides food for thought, and a new restaurant offers food for those weary of cooking.

Noe Valley Photography and Gallery
3773 24th St.
695-1256

A red banner above the entrance announces the gateway to Noe Valley Photography and Gallery, located on 24th Street between Church and Dolores.

Local resident and owner Eugene Evans opened his "Greenwich Village-style" photo studio and art gallery on Sept. 25, after he and designer/builder Will Hughs reconstructed the 1,400-square-foot space.

The photography studio currently offers professional portraits of everything from families (including beloved pets) to corporate groups, as well as high-fashion and commercial shots. (The studio has a full kitchen for commercial food shots.) Merchants receive discounts, and this month there's a 20 percent discount on Christmas portraits.

Evans exhibits his own and others' visual artwork in the gallery, where fish tank filters quietly gurgle to the sounds of easy-listening music. Currently on exhibit are John Francis Edwards' gas-painting photographs, Julianna Cole's paintings and etched charcoals, and Dan Halas' primitive, abstract drawings.

"I want to display a lot of people's work, to see what they're doing and what direction they're heading," says Evans. Amateurs are welcome, he notes, so long as they're "professional enough to put on a show."

At this stage, Noe Valley Photography and Gallery is open by appointment only. Just call 695-1265.

You may also want to check in with Evans if you're a photographer, stylist, or makeup artist—he has plans to expand



Eugene Evans both creates and exhibits images at his Noe Valley Photography and Gallery on 24th Street.

PHOTOS BY CHARLES KENNARO.

his photography studio into a full-fledged production house, and he's looking to hire a few local people.

Firefly
4288 24th St.
821-7652

Firefly, the newly renovated restaurant formerly known as La Roca, is a beacon of luminescence on the quiet block of 24th Street at Douglass.

Owners Veva Edelson and Brad Levy officially opened their dining establishment on Nov. 3, after replacing La Roca's more colorful Spanish decor with warm whites, textured plaster, and ceramic tiles.

"We wanted to provide a nurturing atmosphere with great food, service, and a respite from the day," Edelson says. "Everyone can be themselves, including the people who work here."

Levy, who is also the chef, offers a "melting pot" of cuisine from all over the world, and prepares a different menu every night. "It's food that I've learned to enjoy cooking growing up in America," he says.

A typical Firefly dinner might begin with an appetizer of shrimp and scallop pot stickers with spicy sesame rice wine vinaigrette (\$6.50), or acorn squash and

corn pancakes with black beans and salsa fresca (\$5.95).

Then one could move on to an entree of grilled salmon with golden tomato vinaigrette, ratatouille, and basil couscous (\$14.25), or perhaps the tofu and roasted eggplant stir-fry, featuring spicy garlic sauce and crisp noodle pancakes (\$9.25).

Apple pie à la mode (\$4.50) or chocolate fudge pie with malted whipped cream (\$4), followed by a "digestif" from a selection of ports and sherries, could top off the evening nicely.

On Sundays, Levy prefers to cook up more of a homestyle menu, such as beef brisket with pan-fried spaetzle, peas, and carrots (\$11.75) or barbecued Cornish game hen with french fries and horse-radish slaw (\$12.50).

Firefly has a full wine and beer bar, and also offers a complimentary glass of wine to customers who must wait for a table. Hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 5:30 to 10 p.m. Call 821-7652 for reservations. □

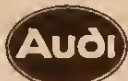


In case you couldn't tell from the sculpture above the door, Firefly is the name of the new "melting pot" restaurant on 24th Street owned by Veva Edelson and Bradley Levy.

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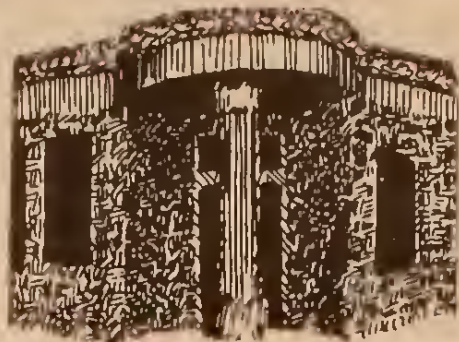
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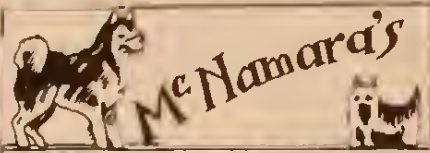
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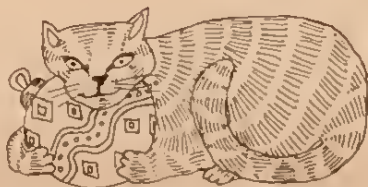
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The Block Party

Thirteen years ago, in the summer of 1980, a memorable block party was held on our hill, on Sanchez Street between Hill and 21st. That year we residents had great cause to celebrate, for after two years of relentless effort to protect our area from over-development, we were informed that the neighborhood had been granted the designation of "Special Use District."

This protected our hilltop with zoning provisions designed to preserve its unique green and open space—a characteristic that to this day enhances not only Noe Valley, but the city as a whole.

Our tireless leader, whose brilliant strategy led us to victory, was Audrey Rogers. Then, as always, she worked diligently for what was good and just—and believe me, achieving special-use status was no piece of cake!

More recently, another important block party was held on 21st Street between Sanchez and Noe—this time to celebrate the formation of a neighborhood SAFE group. When my man Leo, with camera in hand, and I, with notepad and pencil, climbed the hill, we were delighted to see so many familiar faces, including Audrey's. Old-timers mingled with the young newcomers—homeowners, whose children were scampering around tables filled with games and goodies geared just for them.

All of these adorable little ones looked like pussycats, thanks to a young lady with a paintbrush in her hand who was expertly daubing spots and whiskers on one pair of cherubic cheeks after another. As we watched, she introduced

FLORENCE'S FAMILY ALBUM

Illustrated Reminiscences by Florence Holub

PUPPET THEATRE



herself as Gloria Saltzman, the person in charge of entertainment, along with her musician husband Hans Kolbe, who was, she added, from Germany.

Not quite understanding, I politely asked if Hans would be staying in the neighborhood for long. "With two children and a 30-year-mortgage," Gloria responded, "I certainly hope so!"

We both had a good laugh, and she then announced that Hans the Pied Piper was about to play a tune for the children, while leading them to the puppet theater nearby. She rushed off to get there before they did, because she was the puppeteer, too.

After the children sat down, the show began as the curtains of the small stage parted, and the characters were introduced. First, the head of Rosa, the female lead, popped up (like in a Punch

and Judy show). Next came Abdul, the male lead, followed by a fuzzy, cuddly bear. Rosa and Abdul began arguing over the ownership of the animal.

"He's mine!"

"No, he's mine!"

They grabbed at the poor animal, getting so angry that outside help was required. It arrived in the form of an American Indian puppet, who was acting as chief of a community mediation board. After hearing the conflicting pleas, he decreed (King Solomon-like) that the bear should be cut in half so that both Rosa and Abdul could have a portion.

That did not satisfy either Rosa or Abdul, however, so the bear was given a chance to decide. He confessed that he would really like to live alone in a cave, but that every so often he would be

An Oct. 17 block party on 21st Street between Sanchez and Noe showcased a puppet show, games, goodies, and all-round neighborliness. PHOTO BY LEO HOLUB.

happy to visit Rosa or Abdul in their homes. This solution satisfied everyone, so they hugged and kissed and all lived happily ever after. The audience, young and old, loved it.

Gloria, Hans, and their daughters, Zena and Madeline, live in the white cottage covered with climbing red roses where Frank and Myra Cassidy lived until about six years ago. Frank was such a fine man and good neighbor that we all hated to see him move to Santa Rosa. But he and Myra were concerned about the invasion of vandalism and petty crimes in the neighborhood and the city at large, so they left.

They had been gone for only two weeks when Frank's heart failed him. Although he had a serious heart condition, I have always believed that it was the tranquility of suburbia that did him in. We thought of him fondly during the block party, as we did of the late Linna Kaye, an energetic little lady who loved this hill and lived on it for much of her long life.

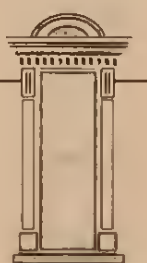
After the puppet play, Anna, a newcomer to our block, arrived leading her black and white long-haired cat, Miss Thing, on a leash. Miss Thing is no scaredy-cat; she loves parties, and she even likes dogs—a lot.

It wasn't long before a male cat named Butch also appeared. His master, Robert Akins, informed us of Butch's

Continued on Next Page

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"Pied Piper" Hans Kolbe, cellist Zena Saltzman-Kolbe, face painter Gloria Saltzman, and Miss Thing and Butch were among the honored guests at a 21st Street bash. PHOTOS BY LEO HOLUB

FLORENCE'S FAMILY ALBUM

Continued from Previous Page

idiosyncrasies, saying that, just like Miss Thing, he also liked dogs.

There was an instantaneous attraction between the two fine-looking felines. Miss Thing took a subservient position on the sidewalk, flat on her stomach looking upward at Butch with her big blue eyes, as the dominant male regally remained sitting on his haunches.

Robert said he could envision a future for the pair. He predicted that the two

cats, being so compatible, would get married, and that since they had both been neutered, they would go down to the SPCA to adopt a baby dog. And then they too would live happily ever after.

The 21st Street block party was a wonderful opportunity to converse with old friends and to become acquainted with new neighbors. There was a festive mood to the day, with sunny skies, balloons, music, potluck food to satisfy every taste, and chairs to accommodate

every size, even the small fry.

As the day drew to a close, Hans brought out his cello and favored us with a beautiful suite by Bach. I was reminded then of the serious and solemn purpose of this surge of neighborhood solidarity: to do everything possible in order to keep each and every person's home safe and secure. Just as the residents of Sanchez Street did many years ago, these 21st Street neighbors have resolved to stand together in a cooperative effort, sharing responsibility for one another.

That is a thought that could grace every Noe Valley resident's New Year's

resolution list. And on that note, I bid you a safe and sane 1994. May we all live happily ever after. □



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Noe Holidayze

By Mazook

I SAW SANTA lumbering through Downtown Noe Valley in mid-November, and I couldn't resist asking: "What are you doing here in Noe Valley, Mr. Claus? And, by the way, where did you park your sleigh? I hope not at Walgreen's or Bell Market."

Santa replied that 24th Street was one of the obligatory stops on his annual shopping jaunt. He even showed me his shopping list, saying, "Noe Valley seems to be the only place in the world where I can pick up the outrageous presents that people have requested this year!"

The first item on Santa's list was a "PooPet" from Panetti's Gifts, on 24th across from Bell Market. This fecal figurine is made out of 100 percent cow manure, and was handcrafted by Mennonites living in Lancaster, Pa., just for us folks here in Noe Valley.

According to those same Amish, the PooPets, which can be placed in or around your flower pots, "effortlessly fertilize and nurture your lucky plants for years." They retail for \$3 to \$13. For Santa, of course, it's strictly wholesale.

Next on Santa's list was something called a "Lava Meditation Fountain." I tracked this item down at Out of Hand on Castro near 24th.

Out of Hander Karla Clement describes it as "a Malabar Hawaiian chestnut tree which grows in lava rock. There is a water pump that keeps the water circulating through the rocks and creates a very



Neighborhood activist Miriam Blaustein (center) was surrounded by friends and family, including her daughter Louise Godfrey (on Miriam's right), at her 80th birthday party celebrated Nov. 7 at the Noe Valley Ministry. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

tranquil sound."

The fountain, produced by Potrero Hill artist Kimbyl Edwards, sells for \$168, a small price to pay for some peace and tranquility.

The most utilitarian item on Santa's list was the "magnetizer/demagnetizer," stocked at Tuggey's Hardware on 24th near Sanchez. The \$9.98 device allows you to pass your screwdriver, tweezers, tool bits, or other steel objects through either a positive or negative force field.

Says chief Tugger Dennis Giovannoli, "It really is a great find, because you can't find magnetic screwdrivers anymore for some reason. With this thing, you can magnetize tools no problem."

According to Dennis, Santa bought 2,358,284 units, using his Bank of North

Pole VISA card, but Tuggey's has lots more on the shelves.

☎ ☎ ☎

SANTA ALSO WENT HEAVY on the prison blues available at Classy Sweats up the street. These jeans are manufactured by prisoners at the Oregon State Penitentiary in Salem, Ore., and are the same models worn by convicts throughout the penal system.

"They started selling them retail about a year ago. We read about it in the *Chronicle* and called the prison," says Classy Sweats' John Arden. "People are really happy with the setup, and we are told that the prisoners are paid minimum wage, 80 percent of which goes for child support, victim restitution, and prison

upkeep, and 20 percent of which is put in a savings account for the prisoner when released."

The basic blues cost 27 bucks and the stone-washed \$30, but both styles come with a patch on the back reading, "Made on the inside to be worn on the outside."

☎ ☎ ☎

SANTA DROPPED BY Small Frys next, and picked up a sack of the store's "upside-down" dolls, going for 18 to 28 dollars American.

These handmade storybook dolls—representing characters from *Aladdin*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*—are "reversible,"

Continued on Next Page

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RUMORS

Continued from Previous Page

in that they have skirts that flip over when you turn them upside down, revealing another figure from the story.

Since Star Magic was barely a stone's throw from Small Frys, Santa couldn't resist stopping to play with the Star's Light Doodler, a \$55 item for the woman or man who has everything. Because it's a spinning coil whose colored lights are sound- and voice-activated, when Santa rang his sleigh bells, the Doodler lit up like a Christmas tree.

☎ ☎ ☎

ON SANTA'S PERSONAL LIST this year was a curious mix of tangible property. He purchased an armful of one-piece pajamas with a drop-seat in the butt from Ocean Front Walkers (\$44), and a legful of sheepskin slippers at Orpheus Leather Goods, ranging from 31 to 48 dolleros.

Santa is getting up there in years, so he also bought a new hearing aid and two pairs of glasses (one regular, one shades) from Vasquez Optical and Hearing, on Castro next to Walgreen's.

This entitled him to a special bonus: 15 free video rentals from Video Wave (five for each pair of glasses or hearing aid purchased at Vasquez). Dolores Vasquez says Santa was too rushed to make his selections at the video store (a block up Castro), so she agreed to mail his 15 Video Wave coupons to the North Pole.

You can bet Mazook will follow up with Video Wave to find out which video features were eventually selected by old St. Nick.

☎ ☎ ☎

ALMOST 200 PEOPLE helped local hero Miriam Blaustein celebrate her 80th birthday at the Noe Valley Ministry last month. She was treated to a cake the size of a patchwork quilt. Actually, it was a quilt, since it was composed of more than 35 squares baked and frosted by her admirers, ranging in age from 1 to 100.

State Senator Milton Marks was on hand to present Miriam with an award, and city Supervisor Sue Bierman also sang her praises.

Miriam began her aging process on Nov. 8, 1913. Two decades ago, she became one of the founding mothers of the Friends of Noe Valley, and since then, she's never shrunk from championing the neighborhood we all know and love.

Miriam is renewing her youth these days by volunteering at the Noe Valley Co-op Nursery School, and she's definitely a favorite with the kids.

Somebody should also give an award to Louise Torracco and Catherine Cordoba, two Diamond Heights seniors who have volunteered two days a week at Alvarado School's library* since the summer. I put an asterisk there because these two women have basically snatched the library from the jaws of oblivion.

Louise and Catherine are recently retired executives from the American Cancer Society. They jointly claim, "We both liked organizing, so this was a lot of fun and a very friendly little school."

Thanks to their help, the Alvarado library now has five sets of encyclopedias and 500 new books, some of which were donated by the San Francisco Commonwealth Club.

Kudos also go out to Martin Manley,

who was recently confirmed as President Clinton's appointment for assistant secretary of labor. Martin and wife Anno Saxenian (she's a U.C. Berkeley professor) have lived on Vicksburg for the past five years, but lately they've been doing lots of commuting to Washington, D.C.

Martin's main task in the Department of Labor will be launching the "Office of the American Workplace," which is something in short supply these days. Good luck, Martin.

☎ ☎ ☎

CONGRATULATIONS are also in order for Louise Reiter's third-grade class at Douglass School (off Collingwood Street over in Eureka Valley). The class of 22 students entered prize-winning drawings in Bell Market's Halloween Coloring Contest, and collectively collected the bounty: a 5-pound Hershey bar.

"It was great when we won," says Louise, who lives at Army and Castro. "Bell Market displayed all their pictures on the wall, the class weighed and measured out equal portions of the chocolate to everyone, and we watched Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory [donated by Video Wave], and you know... we ate the last of it the day we broke for the Thanksgiving holiday."

☎ ☎ ☎

THERE'S NO MORE TIME for One More Time, the secondhand clothes shop on 24th near Diamond. It was all set to close by December, but in November the store posted signs in the window declaring, "Won the Lotto. Ciao. Going out of business—everything nearly free."

One More Time owner Taren Sapienza now reveals that her Lotto winnings amounted to only five bucks. "But we

sure got a lot of attention after the signs went up," she says. "The Lotto idea was actually my boyfriend's idea. He's a publicist."

☎ ☎ ☎

NOE VOTES, SORT OF. You should be unhappy to know that of the 17,415 Noe Valley residents who are registered to vote, only 7,212 (a little more than 41 percent) bothered to vote in the Nov. 2 election. But you can take solace from knowing the city's record was worse: there was only a 37 percent turnout.

As was expected, Noe voters defeated Proposition 174, the so-called "school voucher" initiative. The no's totaled 5,908; the yes'ers 1,123.

But we favored the bond measures for cultural facilities, street and traffic safety, and the Fine Arts Museums by a margin of two to one.

Yea votes slightly outnumbered nays (3,362 and 3,208) on Mayor Jordan's controversial "reform" measure, which gave the city's General Assistance workers the right to ask for proof of residency and obtain fingerprints from welfare recipients.

But Noe Valleons strongly favored the idea of public officials taking public transit, voting 4,593 for, 2,016 against.

And finally, what you've all been waiting for, this neighborhood voted 3,492 to 3,024 in limp support of S.F. Police Officer Bob Geary's right to use his puppet "Brendan" while on patrol in North Beach.

☎ ☎ ☎

ENOUGH OF THESE WEIGHTY matters, and best wishes for a happy holiday season.

Remember, the only way to have peace and good will on Christmas is to achieve it the other 364 days of the year. ☐

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Sat. Dec. 4
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Sat. Dec. 11
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Sat. Dec. 18
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Sat. Jan. 8
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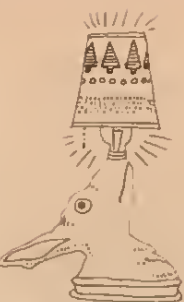
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Writer/Doctor Examines Both Body And Soul

By Jane Underwood

"It's a lovely neighborhood," says writer Michael Blumlein, a resident of Douglass Street. "I love Noe Valley because I can walk. I like being able to stroll down to 24th. It's a fun street. My son walks to Alvarado School, and my daughter goes to Horace Mann, and can walk to school or take the bus."

But when Blumlein sits down to write, he leaves the pleasant world of Noe Valley behind, creating Kafkaesque scenarios that emphasize life's darker side. With three books under his belt, he has earned the reputation as "a major talent on the horror scene," according to a review in *Publisher's Weekly*.

"I guess I feel that writing about how beautiful everything is and how everything is lovely and always works out, well, that doesn't seem to be the way things are," he maintains. "I'm not afraid to jump in and get down and dirty."

He's also not afraid to delve into topics that might make others squeamish. But since Blumlein is a doctor too—a general practitioner who works half-time at the acute-care clinic at U.C. Medical Center—the fact that infections, amputations, dissections, and numerous other medical situations and settings abound in his fiction should come as no surprise.

In his first novel, *The Movement of Mountains*, published in 1987 by St. Martin's Press, the protagonist is a physician who ends up fornicating with all of his patients "as a way of saving the world. And in doing so, they infect him with their personalities," Blumlein says.

His second book, a collection of short stories called *The Brains of Rats* (Scream/Press, 1990), contains one piece about a man who is dissected while still alive and another about a character who makes a living by selling his body parts.

Blumlein notes that he's had a recurring nightmare in which "I would dream about bodies disintegrating, being taken apart—arms and legs and stuff. I tend to write about characters who are barely coping, just this side or that of falling apart."

His most recent book, *XY*, published this fall by Dell Books, also draws on Blumlein's medical expertise. The novel is peppered with scientific commentary—on such topics as the neural nature of memory or what determines sex geneti-



Michael Blumlein wears three hats: he's a Douglass Street family man, a doctor at U.C. Medical Center, and the author of three works of fiction that explore the murkier realms of the human psyche. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

cally. But *XY* "is not bloody," he says. "It's mostly psychological horror. What I write is psychologically disturbing."

The 45-year-old author began concocting his bizarre tales of madness and obsession 15 years ago, three years after he had established his first medical practice.

"My earliest memories of wanting to be something when I grew up revolved around wanting to be a doctor," he says. "So that came first, but I was writing and feeling the desire to be artistic from early on."

A fifth-generation San Franciscan, Blumlein was born and raised in Pacific Heights, where his father was a grocer. He went to college at Yale, got his undergraduate degree in psychology, and returned to San Francisco in 1970 to attend medical school at the University of California. He spent the next few years alternating between living in the Haight and Noe Valley.

In 1976, he met his future wife, Hilary ("She's the only one who gets to read my stuff before I send it out—for one, because she likes me, but also because she's very supportive and very wise"), and in 1980 they bought their house in Noe Valley.

Today, Blumlein says he feels equally identified with both his vocations.

"They don't meld too well together at the exact same time," he admits. "But one or the other is usually at the forefront. If I'm really involved in a writing project, my work as a doctor is less appealing, although when I'm there, I give it all my attention. And when I'm between writing projects, it's really nice to have that steadiness of a regular job."

Naturally, Blumlein's patients provide the material for many of his character compositions and story lines.

"I'm the kind of doctor who lets my patients talk and who wants to find out," he says. "Any person who's in a situation where people are going to open up to them, well, if that person's interested, they're going to find out all sorts of funny, strange, unusual, weird things."

The book *XY* (referring to the 23rd pair of chromosomes) is a weird, strangely erotic gender-bender. It's about a "man" who wakes up one morning to find himself inexplicably trapped inside the body of a young woman.

"Ever since I was a boy, I've been fascinated by the roles of men and women," Blumlein says. "What is a man? What is a woman? What part of man is woman? Of course, people are just who

they are. But there's definitely something different about men and women."

XY's male/female protagonist, Frankie, has a boyfriend who is understandably perplexed and disturbed by his girlfriend's claim that she is no longer his girlfriend, but a man.

"The novel goes from there," says Blumlein. "They start out trying to unravel the mystery. But the boyfriend becomes more and more frustrated, and eventually thinks that his girl/man/girl is really just putting him on, and he gets desperate and angry. Eventually it comes to violence between them. And that ends the first half of the book."

The second half, Blumlein says cryptically, explores the theme of vengeance, but also of love—which brings us to his ultimate focus: peering into the human soul.

"I have a lot of knowledge about medicine, and I can certainly talk to you about that. But I'm not interested in writing about it—I'm interested in exploring my emotional landscape—what I don't know is there." □

Michael Blumlein will be signing copies of *XY* at Cover to Cover Booksellers on Sunday, Dec. 5, from 3 to 5 p.m.

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Clipper Street SAFE Group
Contact: Don Kern or Howard Johnson, 821-3866
Mailing Address: 225 Clipper St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Third Tuesday of month, Bethany Methodist Church, 201 Clipper St., 7 p.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association
Contact: Robert Dockendorff, 826-3867
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club
Contact: Bruce Muncil, 864-7847
Mailing Address: 336 Cumberland St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Irregular

Duncan-Newhurg Association
Contact: Evelyn Martin, 826-6734, Janet Kennedy, 647-1844, or Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Irregular

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club
Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Noe Valley - Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

Fairmount Neighborhood Assniation
Contact: Al Ujcic, 648-3545, or Susan Nutter, 285-8484
Mailing Address: 78 Harper St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez, 7 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors
Contact: Kevin Brickley, 285-4938
Mailing Address: 165 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Twice a year at ICA Auditorium, 24th and Guerrero streets

Friends of Noe Valley
Contact: Steve Roseman, 824-0977, or Georgia Finnegan, 285-8016
Answering machine number: 285-3532
Mailing Address: 1178 Dolores St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Noe Valley - Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

Glen Park Association
Contact: Joan Serwald, 586-4448
Mailing Address: Glen Park Association, P.O. Box 31292, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Second Tuesday of month, Glen Park Recreation Center, Elk and Chenery, 7:30 p.m.

Liberty-Hill Neighborhood Associatinn
Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990, or Hilda Bernstein, 282-8232
Mailing Address: 3333 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Quarterly.
Call for time and location.

Noe Valley Democratic Club
Contact: Rick Hauptman, 647-0549
Mailing Address: 1595 Noe St., #6, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically at Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 7 p.m.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association
Contact: J. P. Gillen, 821-1515
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460574, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Last Wednesday of month, Bank of America, 24th and Castro, 9 a.m.

Noe Valley Senior Center
Call 648-1030 for lunch reservations
Mailing Address: 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Monday through Friday for lunch (donation \$1.25), Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 12:30 p.m.

R.A.A.G.E. Race Awareness Arbitration Group Education
Contact: 285-5322
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 426199, San Francisco, CA 94142
Meetings: Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., place to be announced

Upper Noe Neighbors
Contact: Janice Gendreau, 641-5989
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Meetings: Every other month, Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez, 7:30 p.m. Call for specifics.



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SEX, SELF-WORTH, AND YOGA WORKSHOP. Come and learn how yoga can bring clarity in thinking to bring feelings of self-worth, a healthy sexual outlook, and a happy life. Taught by Swami Prakashananda Ma. Monday, Dec. 6, 7:30 to 9 p.m., \$6. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St., S.F. 94110. 821-1117.

THERAPY/SUPPORT FOR WOMEN OVER 45. Celebrate who you are and explore what's next in your life. Issues addressed include creativity, self-image, self-esteem, relationships, physical changes, and menopause. Individual and relationship therapy also available. Call Donna Vaughan, M.F.C.C., at 861-7550.

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MEDITATION WORKSHOP. This is a practical workshop that will enable students to begin earnest meditation on their own. A clear understanding of what meditation is, how it works, and how to make it an enjoyable daily experience will be presented. Taught by Rev. Kamala Lee. Thursday, Dec. 9, 7:30 to 9 p.m., \$6. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St., S.F. 94110. 821-1117.

NATURAL/NON-TOXIC Housecleaning. Holiday visitor coming? Clean & Green will get your home spotless! Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly. Move in/out and special occasions. Thorough, dependable, references. Call Janet, 552-7240.

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FEMALE COMPOSER/keyboard artist/vocalist looking for professional woman, established home with room available. Interested in monogamous relationship. Love Enya, K.D. Lang, Barbra, classics. Down to earth, relaxed, organized. 707-579-8372.

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DEEP RELAXATION WORKSHOP. Learn how to use deep relaxation in creative ways to release physical and mental tension, and patterns of stress, as well as to conserve energy in your daily life. Taught by Dee Benefield, Monday, Dec. 13, 7:30 to 9 p.m., \$6. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St., S.F. 94110. 821-1117.

CHILD AND FAMILY THERAPY. Many years of intensive work with children who are experiencing or have experienced trauma at school, at home, or elsewhere. If your child is having difficulty paying attention, lacks motivation, has poor social relationships, I work with child and family to alleviate negative effects of traumatic experiences. Lynn Pelsinger, M.F.C.C. 11914, life-credentialed special education teacher. Call for information. 647-3475.

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SPIRITUAL COMPANY. This is a relaxing and informal evening with an inspirational video of Sri Swami Sachidananda, an informal discussion of the video and cookies and tea. Friday, Dec. 10, 7:30 to 9 p.m. \$2. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St., S.F. 94110. 821-1117.

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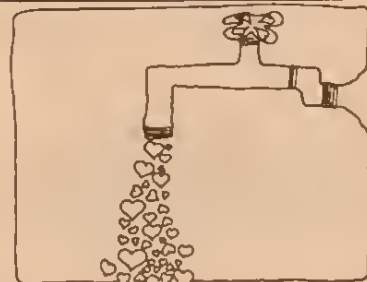
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WOMEN WRITERS PROCESS GROUP: Professionally facilitated group meets monthly in Noe Valley to provide support for the emotional and psychological challenges of writing and the creative process, including writer's block, inner critic, self-disclosure, failure/success issues, isolation. Maire Farrington, M.F.C.C. No. 24893. 282-5965.

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Please let us know whether your ad is a renewal from a previous issue. (But be sure to give us the full ad copy, in any case.)

Recession Discount: The *Voice* comes out 10 times a year—we don't publish in January and August. If you decide to place the same class ad in 10 issues (a year's worth), you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. Just deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

To place an ad in the February 1994 issue, which will be on the streets Feb. 2, mail the ad copy and a check made payable to the *Noe Valley Voice* so that we receive it by Jan. 15. Our address is 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Sorry, but we are unable to accept phone or drop-in orders.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be highlighted in all caps. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. □

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HOLIDAY SERVICES



Saint Paul's Parish

Christmas Schedule 1993

St. Paul's Parish Community warmly invites you and your family and friends to share with us the love that is Christmas.

Reconciliation Services with personal confession and absolution

Monday	13 December	7:30 pm	English
Tuesday	14 December	7:30 pm	Spanish

Personal Confession and Absolution

Friday 24 December 10:00-11:00 am and 4:00-5:00 pm

Christmas Masses Christmas Eve, Friday, 24 December

5:00 pm (Family and Children, English)
8:00 pm (English)
10:00 pm (Spanish)

Please note there is no Midnight Mass

Christmas Day Masses, Saturday, 25 December

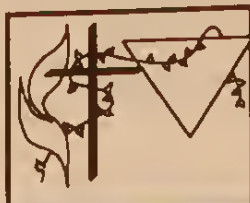
8:00 am (English)
9:15 am (English)
10:45 pm (English)

Please note there is no 5:00 pm Mass on Christmas Day

Sunday Mass schedule on 26 December is same as normal times.

8:00 am, 9:15 am, 10:45 (Spanish), 12:00 Noon and 5:00 pm

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Advent Services each Sunday at 11am
Neighborhood Carolling: Dec. 16, 7pm

Christmas Eve Services:

7pm: A Service of Wonder for the
Child in Us All

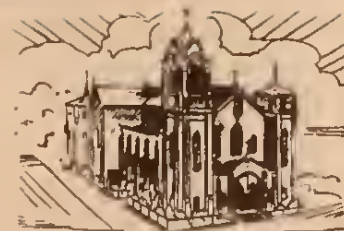
11pm: Service of Lessons and Carols

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Christmas Services

Christmas Eve

1. Confessions: 4:30- 5:30 p.m.
2. Masses: 8:00 a.m., 5:30 p.m.*, Midnight

Christmas Day

Masses: Same as on Sunday: 7:30, 8:45, 10:00 a.m.,
11:15 a.m. (Spanish) & 12:15 p.m.

NO 5:30 P.M. MASS

*Fulfills following day's obligation



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The Rev. Sister Catherine Joy, CSF, Associate
The Rev. John Williams, Associate

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Sunday Eucharist 8:30 and 10:30 am and Wednesday at 6 pm

Sunday School at 10:30 am

Sunday, December 12, 7:00 pm

Service of Advent Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24

7:00 pm Solemn Eucharist (Spanish) LA IGLESIA DEL BUEN SAMARITANO

10:30 pm Carols 11:00 pm Solemn Eucharist (English)

Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25 10:00 am Solemn Eucharist

New Year's Eve, Friday, December 31 11:00 pm Festival Celebration & Communion

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Invites you to celebrate the Sabbath with us:

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Friday, December 10th at 6:30 p.m.

Friday, January 7th at 6:30 p.m.

Toddler Shabbat Services

Saturday, December 11th at 10:30 a.m.

Other programs include the NTAA Thursday Lecture Series, Israeli Dancing, Adult Education Events, Trivia Night and more!
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Congregation Ner Tamid

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Our
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Advent Prayer Wheel Workshop
Sunday, December 5 following Worship

Cantate: a Service of Chants and Prayer
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S. F. Bach Choir, Sing-along Christmas Concert
Tuesday, December 21, 7:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE - Service of Carols,
Readings, Stories and Music
Friday, December 24 at 7 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY - Morning Communion
Saturday, December 25 at 10 a.m.

VOCI, Women's Chorus Christmas Concert
Sunday, December 12 at 2 p.m.

NEW YEAR'S EVE - Meditation Service
Friday, December 31, 7 p.m.

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Mice Work: Muralist Margaret Daley puts the finishing touches on a sign for the Timothy Mouse House preschool at the corner of 23rd and Diamond streets.

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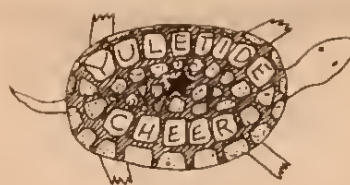
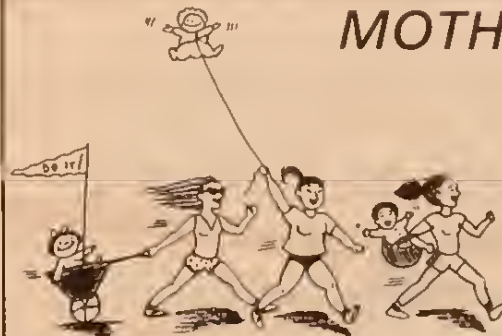
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MORE MOUTHS • to feed •

By Laura McHale Holland

Zahnen Cole Garner

After only three hours of labor, Suzanne Scott told her nurse at U.C.S.F. Medical Center that it was time for her second child to be born.

"The nurse didn't believe me," says Scott, "but to her surprise and my doctor's—who wasn't even there yet—the baby was ready." Moments later, at 5:02 a.m. on Oct. 12, 1992, Zahnen Cole Garner joined the family.

A year later, Zahnen is still on the fast track—only now it's in an effort to catch up to his 5-year-old brother, Tyler.

"Zahnen idolizes Tyler to no end," says his proud dad, Rick Garner. "If Tyler scratches his nose, Zahnen tries to mimic it. He wants to be part of Tyler's world."

Tyler's influence has spurred Zahnen to acquire skills rapidly. "He's done every single developmental thing a lot faster than Tyler," notes Scott. "He started thinking about walking at 10 months. He wants to play with cars because he sees Tyler doing that. This is a lot of fun for Tyler, but it also drives him crazy."

Scott and Garner, both 35, find that having two children is double the fun and double the work.

"You think you don't have any time with one kid, and then you find out when you have another what lack of time *really* is," says Scott. "But you get into a rou-

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The presence of a second son has everyone in the family smiling. From left are 5-year-old Tyler, dad Rick Garner, 14-month-old Zahnen, and mom Suzanne Scott. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

tine, and it's not the shock it was with the first one. Also, the two boys entertain each other lots of times. It's really fun to see them interact."

Zahnen's affable charm has been a catalyst for bringing the family closer together. "He's really a galvanizing force for Suzanne, Tyler, and me," observes Garner. "I don't think there were as many reasons for us to roll around, squeal, and laugh before Zahnen. He begs us to do it, and we all do. In that way, he's a bit of a leader—an instigator, an initiator."

Blue-eyed, sandy-haired Zahnen also brought extra meaning to the last days of his great-great-grandmother.

"Zahnen is named after my great-grandmother. We used her first husband's last name," says Scott. "She died two months after he was born. She said now that the new one was here, it was time for her to go. It was a full circle kind of

thing, and she did get to see the little boy who was named after her."

When they aren't busy with their boys, Scott is a freelance typesetter and graphic designer, and Garner a sales representative for a software company. They are also longtime *Noe Valley Voice* staff members. (Scott does ad design and production, and Garner frequently writes the "Storetrek" column.)

Recently the family moved from Chenery Street in the neighborhood to Judson Street near City College. "We miss being able to walk everywhere in Noe Valley," says Scott. "I must have walked from

30th Street to 24th Street 5,000 times while we lived there. Now I'm always having to get in the car."

Their new neighborhood is quiet, though, and there are lots of kids around—something that will most likely be very important to Zahnen as he gets older.

"The most endearing thing about Zahnen is his wish to include you in his world," says his dad.

"Some children become so preoccupied with an object, it's easy for them to lose track of where they are. But even if it's just picking up a tupperware lid, he wants to share it with you. I've never enjoyed tupperware lids more!" □

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A mammogram is an x-ray that produces pictures of the insides of your breasts. It can detect breast disease and breast lumps that are too small and too deep to feel. Although nine out of ten women will not develop breast cancer and most breast changes are not cancerous, a mammogram is a safe and simple way of detecting breast cancer. The earlier breast cancer is diagnosed, the more successfully it can be treated. A mammogram is one of the best methods doctors have for finding and evaluating breast cancer in its earliest stages.

St. Luke's Breast Health Center has modern x-ray machines that use very small radiation doses. All of our mammogram technologists are women who are specifically trained to take breast x-rays safely and effectively. Each technologist will explain how the breast x-ray is taken and answer your questions. If you are interested, your visit to St. Luke's Breast Health Center can include video instruction in breast self-examination (BSE).

To protect your health, call today for a mammogram appointment at St. Luke's Breast Health Center. You do not need to see your doctor to make an appointment for a mammogram. However, your test results will be sent to your doctor. If you do not have a doctor, St. Luke's Physician Referral Service can help you find one you can trust and who understands your needs. Call St. Luke's Physician Referral Service at 821-DOCS.

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P O E M



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HIGH WINDOW

By Antonia Moore

An old couple walks in some kind of mix of
an amble and a march
on my street
mornings, at 10:15.
Watching them from my high window,
I imagine us, grown old.

She wears loose pink (as I would),
lifting and setting down her
four-pronged steel stick,
while he walks a step ahead, hands in pockets.

They are nothing like us.
We walk together, we are young (relatively),
we smile, we speak.
Except they're still together
as I believe we will be.

I say I want to
grow old with you.
I say I want to die
with you.
Clichés and lies.
When we climb the hill
I can see from my window,
the fog soaks our curls, we take the short cut that goes
straight up,
breathing the damp heat off our skin, looking down
to see the steeples of Saint Paul's, to see your street and
my street one block apart, and I don't
ever
want us to take our halting exercise
once a day, our spirits running on ahead.

Antonia Moore is a writer and editor living on Duncan Street. Her third published short story, "Rejected and Despised," will be included in the Spring 1994 issue of the Santa Barbara Review.



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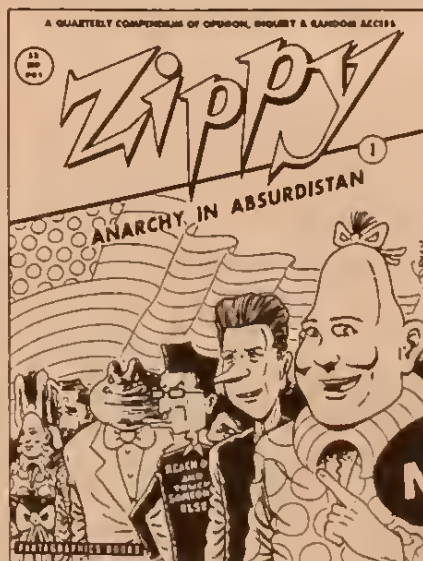
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Adult Fiction

- In *Butterfly Stories*, by William T. Vollmann, an unstable American journalist visiting the Far East explores the relationship between love, sex, and violence through a series of surreal encounters with prostitutes.
- David Payne's *Ruin Creek* is about a young debutante who falls in love with a basketball hero and tumbles into an unhappy marriage.
- *Save Me, Joe Louis*, by Madison Smart Bell, portrays the criminal history of three male con artists living on the edge.
- Set in a sleepy New Mexico town, *So Far from God*, by Ana Castillo, covers two turbulent decades in the lives of a Chicana family.

Adult Non-Fiction

- In *Elizabeth Bishop: Life and the Memory of It*, author Brett Millier delves into the personal and creative history of this complex American poet.
- An anti-science science book, *Fuzzy Thinking*, by philosopher-scientist Bart Kosko, challenges the black-or-white, all-or-nothing Western way of thinking.
- *Nella Cucina*, by Mary Ann Esposito, presents more Italian recipes from the host of *Ciao Italia*.



Librarians Roberta Greifer and Carol Small invite you to check out the new books available at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St. Hours are Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; and Thursday through Saturday, 1 to 6 p.m. Info.: 695-5095.

- Geared to all ages and lifestyles, *New Money Strategies for the 90's*, by Terry Savage, is a simple, step-by-step guide to building wealth and financial security through sound investment techniques.
- The 1990's edition of *The People's Almanac Book of Lists*, by David Wallenchinsky and Amy Wallace, presents a compendium of information on everything from how cats talk with their tails to the 12 worst places to visit.

Children's Non-Fiction

- The founder and director of the Children's Defense Fund, a woman who has worked for years to improve the quality of life for our nation's children, is profiled in *Marian Wright Edelman, Defender of Children's Rights*. (Ages 8-10.)
- *Stegosaurus: The Solar-Powered Dinosaurs*, by Helen Roney Sattler, provides new information about several varieties of Stegosaurus, showing that they were probably much more intelligent than previously thought. (Ages 9 and up.)

Children's Fiction

- Joey's anxiety and guilt about his gift from Grandma are sensitively handled by his mother in *A Gift for Christmas*, by Holly Keller. (Ages 3-6.)
- While on a mountain hike one winter day, Treva cleverly outwits the trolls, thereby managing to keep her dog and all her belongings in *Trouble with Trolls*, by Jan Brett. (Ages 4-7.)
- When there is a dispute between two families in his village, Rabbi Yonah proves to be a creative and wise mediator in *In the Month of Kislev: A Story for Hanukkah*. (Ages 6 and up.)
- *Klara's New World*, by Jeanette Winter, describes the experience of a young girl who in the 19th century emigrates from Sweden and moves to the United States with her family. (Ages 6-9.)
- In *Scorpions* by Walter Dean Myers, friends Jamal and Tito find that some aspects of their lives have changed forever as a result of Jamal's having a gun for a short time. (Ages 11 and up.)



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Bill McKeever

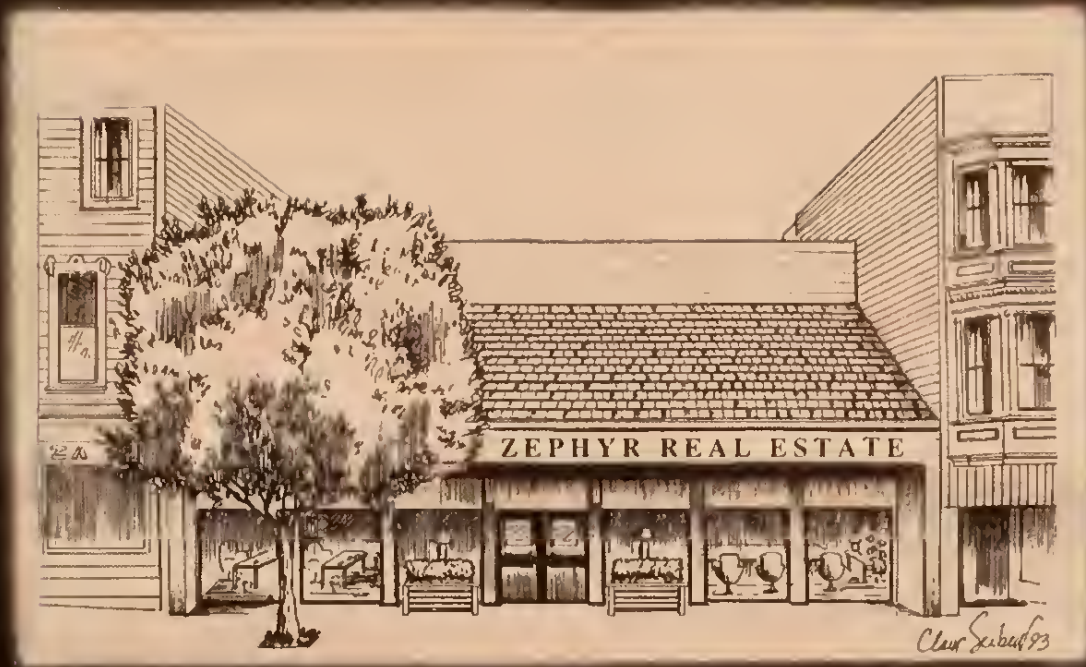
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CALENDAR

DEC. 1-2: Joe's Oigital Diner offers an interactive CD ROM happy hour, 5:30-7 pm, a "3D Special" dinner, 7-8 pm; and a multimedia presentation at 8 pm. 3435 Army St., Studio 222. Call 824-9394 for reservations

DEC. 1 & 8 and JAN. 5, 12, 19 & 26: The Noe Valley Library's Wednesday LAPSITS for infants and toddlers continue at 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

DEC. 1-24: Galeria de la Raza/Studio 24 displays Mexican and Latin American FDLK ARTS at "Bazaar Navideno." Sat - Thurs, 11 am-6 pm, Fri., 11 am-8 pm. 2857 24th St. 826-8009

DEC. 2-4: Anne Blumenthal & DANCERS join composer/vocalist Karolyn van Putten in "Mostly Solos." 8:30 pm. Dancers' Group/Footwork, 3221 22nd St. 824-5044

DEC. 3: Pierre Labossiere reports on the current situation in HAITI. 8 pm. Socialist Action Bookstore, 3425 Army St. 821-0458.

DEC. 3: Tenor Mark Hernandez and pianist Kristin Pankonin perform classical SPANISH ART SONGS. 8 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015

DEC. 3: Charles Rus gives an ORGAN RECITAL of works by Bach, Buxtehude, Robert Schumann, and Louis Vierne. 8 pm. Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, 455 Fair Oaks St. 824-5142.

DEC. 3: The Noe Valley Music Series presents the House Jacks, an a cappella VOCAL ROCK band. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

DEC. 4: Alexander Technique teacher Kathryn Zimmermann leads a posture, respiration, and vocal WORKSHOP. 10 am - noon. 1082 Sanchez St. 328-0697

DEC. 4: Natural Resources hosts a children's holiday CONCERT, featuring entertainer Al Einhorn. 2 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 550-2611.

DEC. 4: The Tenderloin WOMEN WRITERS workshop celebrates its second collection of fiction and poetry, *Living Room*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246

DEC. 4: The Eastern European women's chorus KITKA performs holiday music. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272

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ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

Illustration by Florence Holub

DECEMBER 1993

DEC. 4, 5, 11 & 12: The S.F. Women's Building sponsors the 1993 Celebration of CRAFTSWOMEN benefit sale at FI Mason Center. 647-7403

DEC. 5: Dawn Summers teaches a YOGA WORKSHOP, "Fantastic Voyage: Use of Breath in Asana." 10 am-1 pm. The Center for Movement Education, 98 Chenery St. 648-2432.

DEC. 7: Handmade gift items will be for sale at the 30th Street Senior Center's 4th annual CHRISTMAS BAZAAR. 10 am-3 pm. 225 30th St., 3rd Floor. 550-2210.

DEC. 7: Michelle Cliff discusses *Free Enterprise*, a novel about two black women abolitionists who meet in the 1850s. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246

DEC. 7 & JAN. 11: The Noe Valley Library screens FILMS for preschoolers at 10 and 11 am, and for children 6 and up at 3:30 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

DEC. 8: The California Society of PRINTMAKERS' annual membership exhibit is on view at Mission Cultural Center. Reception Dec. 12, 1-4 pm. 2868 Mission St. 821-1155.

DEC. 9: Sheila Weisblatt leads a job search strategies WORKSHOP for midlife women. 6-9 pm. Women's Building, 3543 18th St. 431-6405

DEC. 11: The Randall Museum offers a WREATH-MAKING workshop, "Bows and Boughs." 10 am-noon. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600

DEC. 11: Dads are invited to an INFANT MASSAGE class offered by Natural Resources. 11 am-noon. 4081 24th St. 550-2611

DEC. 11: CLAUDIA GOMEZ and her band perform a farewell concert before she returns to her native Colombia. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

DEC. 12: The Noe Valley Chamber Music Series presents the Voci Women's Chamber CHOIR performing Kirke Mechem's *Seven Joys of Christmas*. 2 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

DEC. 12 & JAN. 9: The Noe Valley Ministry conducts its CANTATE service of chanting, meditation, and prayer. 7 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

DEC. 16: The Scottish Country Dancers celebrate the season at a Winter Solstice DANCE Party. 7:30-10 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 333-9372.

DEC. 16-18: FOOTWORK studio presents new work in a "Local 7" concert. 8:30 pm. 3221 22nd St. 824-5044

DEC. 17: Community Music Center offers a CONCERT of sacred music and Christmas carols by Spanish composers. 8 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015.



Kitka echoes the haunting vocal harmonies of Eastern Europe at the Noe Valley Music Series Dec. 4.

DEC. 22: Julie Willard leads a workshop in making scented GIFT SOAPS. 1-3 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600

DEC. 22: The Bach Choir invites the neighborhood to a SING-ALONG Christmas concert. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

DEC. 28: Tom Madden performs IRISH SONGS and poetry at Keane's 3300 Club. 7 pm. 29th & Mission. 824-0835.

DEC. 29: Make personalized 1994 calendars at Margaret Goodale's WORKSHOP. 1-3 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

JAN. 8: FDLK MUSIC legend Ramblin' Jack Elliott performs his only Bay Area concert. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272

JAN. 9: I Gatti Freschi PIANO TRIO performs works by Haydn, Arensky, and Schubert at 2 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317



The holidays summon the carols and folk songs of Golden Bough to the Noe Valley Ministry on Dec. 18.

JANUARY 1994

JAN. 15: The world-famous PER-SUASIONS sing a cappella at 7:30 and 9:30 pm for the Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

JAN. 17: A Cut Above Castro stylist Barbara teaches simple HAIRCUTTING techniques for young children. 2:30-4 pm. Natural Resources, 4081 24th St. 550-2611.

JAN. 19: The Noe Valley Library shows the classic FILM of the 1905 Russian revolution, *The Battleship Potemkin*. 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

JAN. 22: The Noe Valley Music Series presents Jessica Williams in a SOLO CONCERT. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

JAN. 29: The Noe Valley Library features Chinese LION DANCERS to celebrate Chinese New Year. 3 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

DEC. 18: The Ina Chalis Opera Ensemble performs *Amahl and the Night Visitors* at Community Music Center's HOLIDAY PARTY for children. 11:30 am. 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

DEC. 18: Pianist Alma Batista and soprano Elender Wall perform a joint RECITAL, including *Sonata Pathétique* by Beethoven. 8 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

DEC. 18: Celebrate Christmas with a concert of OLD WORLD CAROLS from the British Isles performed by Golden Bough. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272

DEC. 19: The Noe Valley Ministry organizes a COMMUNITY CAROLING through the neighborhood. Meet at 1021 Sanchez St. at 6 pm. 282-2317

DEC. 13: The Diamond Senior Center's holiday BIRTHDAY PARTY, lunch, and dance lasts from noon to 3 pm. 117 Diamond St. 863-3507

DEC. 14 & 28 and JAN. 4, 18 & 25: STORYTIME for preschoolers begins at 10 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

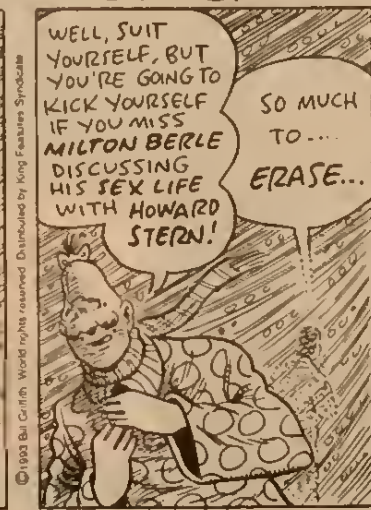
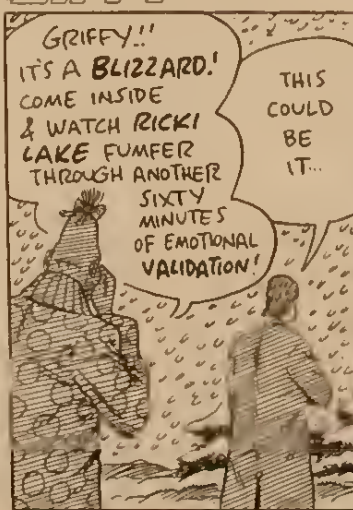
DEC. 15: The Noe Valley Library's FILM series presents two vintage comedies, *The Kid*, starring Charlie Chaplin, and *Liberty*, with Laurel and Hardy. 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

DEC. 16: Natural Resources offers a free breastfeeding SUPPORT GROUP from 11:30 am to 1 pm. 4081 24th St. 550-2611.



ZIPPY

"NOTHING BUT SNOW"



The Scoop on Calendar

Please send calendar items before the 15th day of the month preceding the month of issue to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley neighborhood events receiving priority. Note: The *Voice* is on vacation for the month of December. Our next issue will appear Wednesday, Feb. 2, and will cover events for the month of February. □